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Her Majesty – the final farewell

Eight-page supplement: Your best guide to watching the service and following the procession



The Sunday Telegraph
SUNDAY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



AARON CHOWN/PA WIRE

Together for Granny

Display of composure and family bonds from the grandchildren of Queen Elizabeth II at vigil

By **Hannah Furness** ROYAL EDITOR

THE grandchildren of Queen Elizabeth II made history last night as they walked side by side to honour her memory in an emotional vigil that matched the most formal of royal duties with love.

The eight grandchildren of the Queen chose to pay public tribute in the first vigil of its kind in British history, led by the Prince of Wales, with his brother behind him.

With an age range spanning 30 years, the cousins maintained their composure, as members of the public filed past them in tears.

Taking their turn at what has, until now, seemed a formal military occasion, 44-year-old Peter Phillips, Zara Tindall, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie, Lady Mountbatten-Windsor and Viscount Severn wore the black clothes of mourning to walk in unison. They had chosen to come together to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II, in her dual role as their grandmother and the Queen they shared with the nation.

Meeting an hour beforehand at Buckingham Palace, they appeared to have rehearsed their formation as far as possible, with the youngest, 14-year-old Viscount Severn, walking in the middle with his grown-up cousins protectively around him. All eight took their positions around the coffin at Westminster Hall, with the Prince of Wales, 40, and Duke of Sussex, 38, both in uniform at either end. It is the first time the Duke has been permitted to wear a uniform since leaving the working family in January 2020, after his father made an exception to allow him to honour the grandmother who was his commander-in-chief during his 10 years in the Army.

The Duke wore the Blues and Royals No.1 Uniform, with KCVO Neck Order and Star, Afghanistan Operational Service Medal, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilee medals and Army Pilot Wings. The Prince of Wales wore his Blues and Royals, No.1 Uniform, Garter Sash and Garter Star, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilee medals and RAF Pilot Wings.

Now leading his generation of the family, the Prince stepped first, marching slowly through Westminster Hall followed by his younger brother and cousins two-by-two; first the York Princesses, then the teenage Wessexes, then the Princess Royal's children.

At the knock of a staff from the officer in command of the Vigil Party at 6pm, they walked down the Grand Committee staircase. As Prince William and Prince Harry – the most used to processions in the public eye – put their military training into practice, their cousins followed as civilians with arms straight by their sides and eyes forwards.

They are the first grandchildren of a monarch to undertake such a vigil, with the women wearing high heels and the pearls the Queen loved, as they stood with their backs to the catafalque. Hands clasped in front of them and heads bowed, each appeared lost in their own thoughts. Prince Harry appeared to be rocking slightly on his heels, a military tactic to ensure soldiers remain upright during long waits, while his cousins relied on the depths of their own resolve to stay composed. Their family composure was extraordinary; their bond still remarkable.

Prince William leads his brother the Duke of Sussex, who stands behind him, and cousins Princesses Eugenie (left) and Beatrice (right) in standing guard over the late Queen's coffin at Westminster Hall ahead of the state funeral tomorrow

As well-wishers of all ages filtered past, they kept their eyes lowered in a stance of utmost respect they had already seen from their parents, who have completed vigils in Scotland and London in the past week.

The Earl and Countess of Wessex watched their children from within the hall, Sophie looking visibly upset and worried at the sight of Louise, 18, and James, small in his formal suit, grieving for their grandmother.

Some women in the public line, perhaps mothers or grandmothers themselves, appeared unwilling to watch such an intimate moment for too long, dissolving into their own tears as they paused before the coffin.

Princes William and Harry, for all their recent differences, wore a mirror-image of expression, with tense jaws and reddening eyes as they worked to do their grandmother proud.

It was only as they left, after 15 minutes and on the signal of an officer, that the most human side of the family was on show: Mrs Tindall, 41, briefly losing her right shoe as she reached the top of the staircase and sharing a smile with Lady Louise.

Kim Cole, 40, from Colorado, queued for 11 and a half hours before finding herself in the hall at the same time as the Royal grandchildren.

"It was hard to look at them just because you can feel how emotional they are. It's very emotional in there," she said.

An hour earlier, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie had issued a deeply personal letter to their "dearest Grannie", thanking the late Queen for their cherished memories.



The Princesses, writing jointly in tribute to their grandmother, described the "tears and laughter, silences and chatter, hugs and loneliness, and a collective loss for you, our beloved Queen and our beloved Grannie".

Saying they were "so happy" to know she was now reunited with "Grandpa" the Duke of Edinburgh, they addressed her directly to tell her the tributes that had been paid since her death "would really make you smile".

"Thank you for making us laugh, for including us, for picking heather and raspberries, for marching soldiers, for our teas, for comfort, for joy," they said.

The Prince of Wales, meeting hundreds of members of the public in the queue for the Westminster Hall lying in state, said his grandmother would "never have believed" the outpouring of love shown to her since her death.

The Prince, who joined his father the King for a surprise walkabout in Lambeth, said seeing the number of people wanting to pay their respects was "quite emotional".

"She would never have believed all this," he told well-wishers of his grandmother. "It seems to be uniting everyone and bringing everyone together."

'It was hard to look at them just because you can feel how emotional they are'

Saying he hoped people were making "friends for life" while waiting in line, where they have been moving almost constantly for 12 hours at that point, he added: "It means an awful lot that you're here, it really does."

The Queen Consort will today also pay tribute to her late mother-in-law, describing the "unforgettable" smile and "wonderful blue eyes" that "light up her whole face".

In pre-recorded words to be broadcast on the BBC shortly before the national minute's silence at 8pm, she said: "It must have been so difficult for her being a solitary woman.

"There weren't women prime ministers or presidents. She was the only one so I think she carved her own role."

Today, the King and Queen Consort will host a state reception at the palace for heads of state and foreign royals.

Attended by working members of the Royal family, therefore excluding the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the event will host world leaders for drinks in a reception described as unprecedented in living memory.

Yesterday, the family hosted Commonwealth leaders at a reception and lunch, welcoming governors-general to the palace to talk about the organisation she held so dear.

Last night, heads of state including Joe Biden, the US president, were due to fly into Britain to pay their personal respects to the late Queen.

A Chinese delegation will now be invited to visit the late Queen's lying-in-state, following on from confusion over their status.

A parliamentary spokesperson said: "The head of states (or their representatives) who have been invited to attend the state funeral in Westminster Abbey are also invited to attend the lying-in-state in Westminster Hall."

Yesterday, the assisted queue for lying-in-state closed, with officials saying the main queue is likely to close to new entrants today before lying-in-state draws to a close at 6.30am tomorrow.

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Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

They were all favourites for 'Granny'

Behind palace walls, Queen Elizabeth enjoyed a remarkably close bond with all her grandchildren

By **Camilla Tominey**

EACH and every one of Queen Elizabeth II's eight grandchildren has been described as her "favourite" over the years.

Yet they all enjoyed an incredibly close bond with the woman they knew simply as "Granny". As the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex last night led a poignant grandchildren's vigil around Queen Elizabeth's coffin with their cousins Peter Phillips, Zara Tindall, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie, Lady Louise Windsor and James, Viscount Severn, stories have begun to emerge about the remarkable relationship they all shared behind palace walls.

There was the time when the Queen asked Prince Harry to record the first voicemail message on her new mobile phone. Ever the joker, according to royal author Phil Dampier, Harry spoke the following words: "Hey, wassup? This is Liz. Sorry I'm away from the throne. For a hotline to Philip, press one. For Charles, press two and for the corgis, press three!" Robin Janvrin, the Queen's private secretary, got the shock of his life when he heard it, but she just laughed, having always shared her grandson's wicked sense of humour.

'It was almost as though, at 90, she was thinking why nobody asked her to do such things more often'

A few years later, in 2016, she agreed to star in an amusing video responding to Barack and Michelle Obama's Invictus Games challenge with the words: "Oh really, please." Harry said: "It was almost as though you could see that look in her face, at the age of 90, thinking, 'Why the hell does nobody ask me to do these things more often?'"

With the Duke of Edinburgh often playing pranks on his grandchildren, mischief is the word that appeared to characterise the relationship between the oldest and youngest members of the House of Windsor.

In a documentary after Prince Philip died, Harry, 38, and William, 40, recalled their grandparents' delight at mishaps on royal engagements.

"You can imagine they live a life where everything has to go right the whole time, so when things go wrong, they both chuckle an awful lot," said William. "Everyone else gets mortally embarrassed, but they love it."

As her grandson and heir, the Prince of Wales had a special relationship with his late grandmother which would see him regularly pop over to Windsor Castle for afternoon tea when he was a pupil at nearby Eton College.

As well as helping him to manage his grief following the death of his mother, the late Queen also used their one-to-one sessions to subtly prime him for his role as future king, helping to instil in him her own unwavering sense of duty.

It is fair to say William, shy like Queen Elizabeth, has modelled his subtly statesmanlike yet unstuffy approach to royal life in her image. The late



The Queen's grandchildren surround her coffin for a family vigil as she lies in state in Westminster Hall, centre; the Earl and Countess of Wessex watch the tribute, top right; Prince Harry stands vigil wearing his military uniform for the proceedings that will be watched around the world

Only working royals will be able to stand in for King under reform to counsellor roles

By **Victoria Ward** *and* **Ed Malnick**

THE KING wants the law amended so his counsellors of state are all working members of the Royal family, *The Sunday Telegraph* understands.

The move would result in the Duke of York, the Duke of Sussex and Princess Beatrice being relieved of their duties as official stand-ins for the sovereign, should he be unavailable.

Under the 1937 Regency Act, the spouse of a monarch and the four adults next in line to the throne can act as counsellors of state on official business.

When Queen Elizabeth II was on the throne, those roles were filled by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Sussex and the Duke of York, while the Duke of Edinburgh had also acted as one before his death.

The change in the line of succession means the new Queen Consort is now entitled to be a counsellor of state, as is Princess Beatrice.

But Buckingham Palace has been under pressure to eject Prince Harry and Prince Andrew from their roles and install working members of the family in their places.

It is believed that the King recognises the incongruity of having a trio of non-working royals able to step into his shoes if he is abroad or incapacitated.

He is thought likely to take the relevant steps to have the law changed as soon as he can, raising the prospect that the Earl of Wessex and the Princess Royal could be elevated to the vacant positions.

Such a move may form part of a wider redefinition of working and non-working royals. As such, if not determined solely by the line of succession as is now the case, the Princess of Wales may also be included as a counsellor.

It is rare for counsellors of state to be called upon but not unprecedented.

In May, the then Prince Charles and Prince William attended the State Opening of Parliament on behalf of the late Queen, opening the new session after being deployed to deputise for her.

Two counsellors were required to be present in order to be constitutionally sound.

Any change in legislation would have to be enacted by Parliament.

In the past, changes have been made to the Regency Act by MPs in response to a formal "message from the Queen", asking them to consider particular amendments.

In 1953, the monarch proposed including a provision ensuring that if a child of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh acceded to the throne before turning 18, Prince Philip would become Regent.

The amendments were laid in Parliament as a new Regency Act, by Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, the then home secretary.

The move prompted John McGovern, a Labour MP, to complain that "members are taken to be robots to carry out the will of the monarchy whenever it is desired to make a change". Approval was also sought from Commonwealth countries.

Tribute Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie

Our dearest Grannie. We've not been able to put much into words since you left us all.

There have been tears and laughter, silences and chatter, hugs and loneliness, and a collective loss for you, our beloved Queen and our beloved Grannie.

We, like many, thought you'd be here forever. And we all miss you terribly.

You were our matriarch, our guide, our loving hand on our backs leading us through this world. You taught us so much and we will cherish those lessons and memories forever.

'We, like many, thought you'd be here forever. And we all miss you terribly'

For now dear Grannie, all we want to say is thank you. Thank you for making us laugh, for including us, for picking heather and raspberries, for marching soldiers, for our teas, for comfort, for joy. You, being you, will never know the impact you have had on our family and so many people around the world.

The world mourns you and the tributes would really make you smile. They are all too true of the remarkable leader you are.

We're so happy you're back with Grandpa. Goodbye, dear Grannie. It has been the honour of our lives to have been your granddaughters and we're so very proud of you.

We know that dear Uncle Charles, the King, will continue to lead in your example as he too has dedicated his life to service.

God save the King.

With our love,

Beatrice and Eugenie

and revelled in every second with her

Queen was always incredibly close to Peter Phillips, 44, and Zara Tindall, 41, her first grandchildren and the children of her only daughter.

She took great pride in Peter being head boy at Gordonstoun, Prince Philip's alma mater, and him representing Scotland at rugby at a junior level.

She was also proud of all of Zara's equestrian achievements, including the Eventing World Championship in 2006 and a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics.

But the thing she always used to delightedly tell friends about her granddaughter was that she was a qualified physiotherapist. Having been home schooled, Queen Elizabeth was hugely admiring of her grandchildren being educated to degree level (and equally proud of Harry's 10 years in the Army).

'She was hugely admiring of them being educated to degree level - and of Harry's time in the Army'

The 10-year age gap between the King, 73, and the Princess Royal, 72, and the Duke of York, 62, and the Earl of Wessex, 58, meant the late Queen saw much more of her York and Wessex grandchildren when they were little because she was away less often.

When William and Harry were growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, royal tours would take months – but by the time Lady Louise and Viscount Severn arrived, life had slowed down a little.

The Duke of York being so close to his mother – in both a familial and geographical sense as he always lived near her – meant Beatrice and Eugenie saw a great deal of their grandmother.

In 2012, Beatrice, 34, oversaw the refurbishment of a two-storey thatched cottage that the late Queen and Princess Margaret used to play in when they were little. "We have been lucky enough to play here," she revealed at the time. "It's a real family treat. It's the most glamorous Wendy house ever."

In 2012, when asked what it was like to have the Queen as a grandmother, a doting Eugenie, 32, replied: "Whenever Grannie walks into a room, everyone stands up, stops, and just kind of watches her because, obviously, it's huge when she walks into a room. And I find that incredible. I kind of go, 'Ah.'"

'The Queen went to see Sophie in hospital [after Louise was born], which was unheard of'

In 2003, Sophie, Countess of Wessex nearly died giving birth to Lady Louise. According to royal author Ingrid Seward: "The Queen went to see her in hospital, which was unheard of. She rather took Sophie under her wing, maybe from that moment on."

Louise and James, 14, saw so much of their grandparents at weekends that staff would speak of "stepping over tricycles" to gain entry. The Wessexes also regularly holidayed with the late Queen and Prince Philip as the Countess confirmed to me last year: "The poor Queen has had to put up with us staying on much longer than anybody else in Scotland and Norfolk. Because the children were interested in ponies and things – it was a natural draw for us to be there."

Reflecting on her father-in-law's death, she added: "We were very lucky the children did have so much contact."

As they bowed their heads in sorrow to remember their cherished grandmother, Queen Elizabeth's eight grandchildren will have been gratefully holding on to that touching sentiment.







AARON CHOWN/PA WIRE/CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

Queen carved her own role, says Camilla in TV tribute

By **Camilla Tominey**

SHE paid Camilla the greatest tribute when she decreed that she should be known as Queen Consort.

Now the Queen Consort will show her respect for Queen Elizabeth II in a televised tribute recalling her "wonderful blue eyes" and saying: "I will always remember her smile."

In pre-recorded words due to be aired on television tonight, the King's wife, 75, will speak of how her mother-in-law carved out her own role for many years in the "difficult position" of being a "solitary woman" in a male-dominated world.

"I can't remember anyone except the Queen being there," the Queen Consort will add, being among the majority of the nation for whom, until now, the Queen was the only British monarch they had ever known or could recall.

The touching tribute is set to be aired on the BBC on the eve of Queen Elizabeth's state funeral, shortly before the national minute's silence at 8pm.

Camilla will say: "She's been part of our lives forever. I'm 75 now and I can't remember anyone except the Queen being there. It must have been so difficult for her being a solitary woman. There weren't women prime ministers or presidents. She was the only one so I think she carved her own role."

Remembering the late monarch, Camilla will add: "She's got those wonderful blue eyes, that when she smiles they light up her whole face. I will always remember her smile. That smile is unforgettable."

Elizabeth II delivered a masterstroke on the eve of her Platinum Jubilee in February 2022 when she endorsed the then Duchess of Cornwall to be known as Queen Consort when the time came.

The Queen said it was her "sincere wish" and called on the public to back both her daughter-in-law and Charles when he became King.

She said: "I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service."

It was a shrewd move from the monarch, in her twilight years, setting her affairs in order and ensuring as smooth a transition as possible.

It ended years of debate over what Camilla – Charles's former mistress – would eventually be called.

Camilla was blamed for the breakdown of the prince's marriage to Diana, Princess of Wales, and, when news of their affair first came to light, she faced vitriolic criticism.

But in the decades after the Waleses' divorce, the untimely death of Diana in 1997 and Camilla's acceptance into The Firm, the public mood towards the former Mrs Parker Bowles has softened.

Following her wedding to Charles in 2005, Camilla very gradually took on a more prominent position within the Royal family, including riding next to the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee carriage procession in 2012.

She also began to attend the State Opening of Parliament and was made a Privy Counsellor in 2016 ahead of the Queen's official 90th birthday.

Today's Sunday Telegraph

There is no Sunday supplement in today's paper and Puzzles are in a separate eight-page pullout. Business and Sport can be found together in one eight-page section.

Reception snub shows cold reality of a life outside Team Windsor

Camilla Tominey
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



WHEN they "stepped back" as senior members of the Royal family in January 2020, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex dreamed of a "progressive new role" within the monarchy that would see them "work to become financially independent, while continuing to fully support Her Majesty The Queen".

What we have witnessed since Queen Elizabeth II's death, though, is Harry and Meghan being offered a form of "half in, half out" royalty, far from the cake-and-eat-it scenario they originally envisaged.

The news the couple accidentally received an invitation to tonight's "state reception of the century" at Buckingham Palace only to have it rescinded at the last minute shows they may have a discretionary "in" for family occasions but for major events involving world leaders, they are well and truly "out".

As they have been reunited with the royals this week, a distinction has been clearly drawn between what the "non-working" Sussexes can be involved with as "much loved members of the family" and what their inferior status allows in terms of state set pieces, which is seemingly very little.

King Charles spelled it out in his first speech when he drew the distinction between "our new Prince and Princess of Wales continuing to inspire and lead our national conversations" and Harry and Meghan "continuing to build their lives overseas".

Failing to feature among the 1,000-strong guest list for one of the biggest palace events in living memory does rather drive home the reality that they remain very much on the outside looking in. Indeed, the last-minute nature of the "un-invitation" suggests communications with the palace aren't what they used to be.

In denying them the opportunity to rub shoulders with the likes of Joe Biden and Jacinda Ardern, the palace powers-that-be have reasonably decided there is a time and a place for Harry and Meghan – and it is not at the biggest diplomatic reception ever hosted by a monarch.

As a fellow non-working royal, the Duke of York is unsurprisingly not attending either.

Yet in withdrawing the offer to the Sussexes, the so-called men in grey suits may also have been mindful that the increasingly politicised nature of some of their recent interventions – from encouraging people to vote in America to the Duke's comments on gun control – may not sit with the non-partisan nature of the gathering.

The snub will be a blow, however, not only to the Duke as fifth in line to the throne and the King's son, but also the Duchess, who has tried to reposition herself as global powerhouse, on a par with former First Lady Michelle Obama.

Before she married Harry in 2018, the former actress made a lot of her high-level connections, posting a photograph of herself speaking to Justin Trudeau on Instagram and forging a close friendship with Jessica Mulroney, daughter–in-law of Brian Mulroney, Mr Trudeau's predecessor as prime minister of Canada.

Having been tipped as a potential future Democratic presidential nominee, Meghan, 41, wrote a letter last October to Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House, and Chuck Schumer, the Senate Majority Leader, advocating for paid family leave. She would have delighted in pressing the flesh with President Biden (not least after she managed to swerve Donald Trump's state visit in 2019, having described the former president as "misogynistic" and "divisive".)

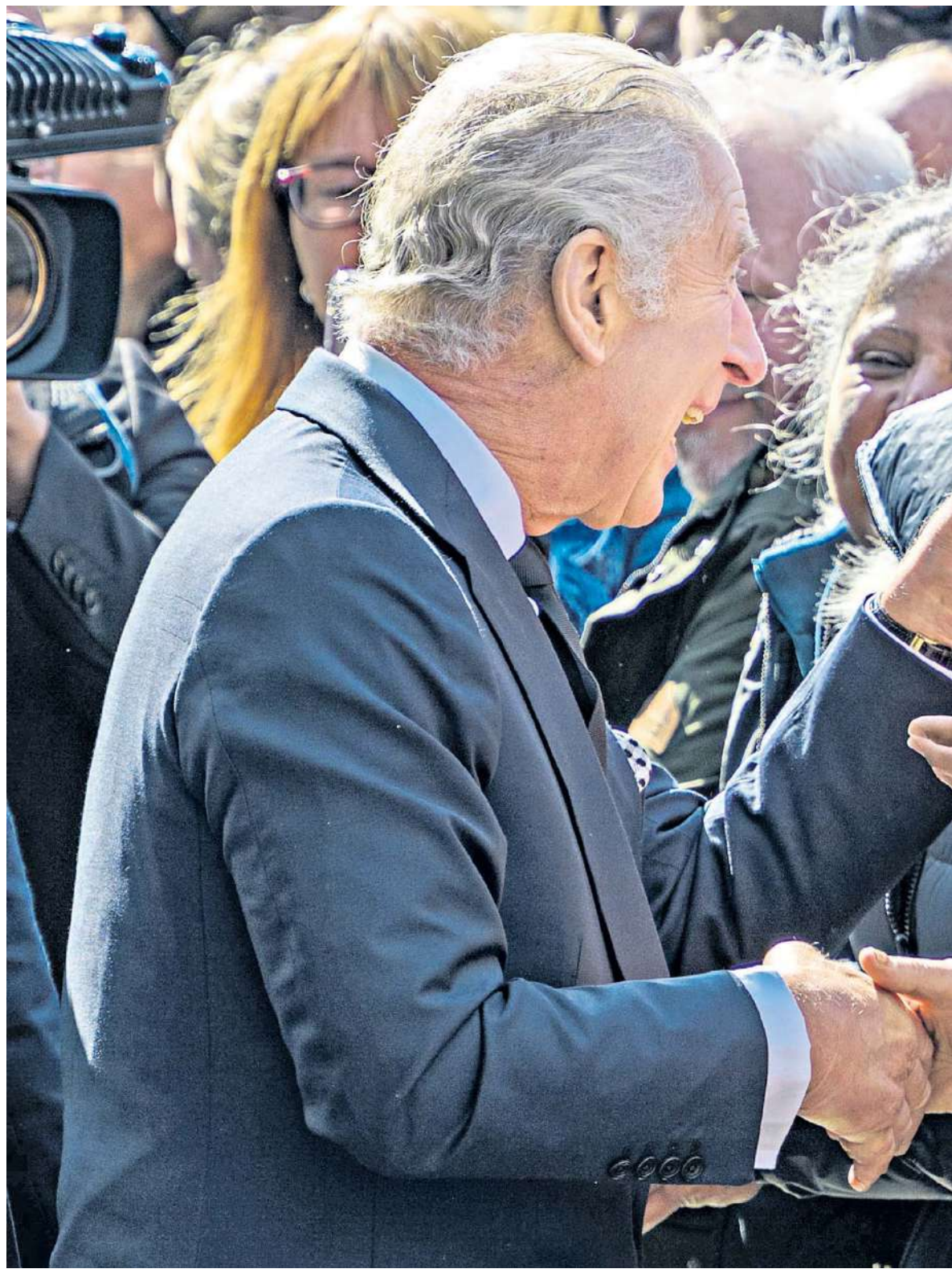
Although Harry did not personally intervene over the decision to ban him from wearing military uniform, claiming he was happy to wear whatever his grandmother had requested, the couple do appear quite put out by the reception rebuff.

A source close to the Sussexes stressed they had done everything expected of them during the period of mourning and were determined to keep the focus on the late Queen.

"They have turned up, they have smiled, shaken hands, whatever was asked," the source said.

Yet the harsh reality of royal life is that if your name's not down on the official House of Windsor team sheet, you're not coming in.

She would never have believed this, Prince tells those in line





ANTHONY UPTON; PA; AP

King and his son embark on walkabout in Lambeth as mourners wait to pay respects to late Queen

By **Hannah Furness** ROYAL EDITOR

THE late Queen would "never have believed" the sight of the queue to see her lying in state, the Prince of Wales has said, as he praised the unity of those waiting and new friendships forged through mutual grief.

The Prince, who joined his father for a walkabout in Lambeth for members of the public queuing for Queen Elizabeth II lying in state, said seeing the number of people wanting to pay their respects was "quite emotional".

"She would never have believed all this," he told well-wishers of his grandmother. "It seems to be uniting everyone and bringing everyone together."

Saying he hoped people were making "friends for life" while they have been waiting in line and moving almost constantly for 12 hours, he shook hundreds of hands and repeatedly told people he hoped they were not too cold and tired.

"It means an awful lot that you're here, it really does," he said. "You're doing an amazing job. People have queued for miles and miles, it means so much to our family. It's like nothing we could have imagined".

The King, speaking to a 69-year-old NHS worker, told her: "It's worth it when you get there – she [the late Queen] would have been very touched by all this."

The King and his eldest son made the surprise appearance near Lambeth Bridge to help boost the morale of people who had joined the queue in the middle of the night to see the Queen's coffin in Westminster Hall.

"When you get in there, it's very emotional," he told them. "I hope the queue moves quickly. You're nearly there. I can't believe the scale of this queue and there are people from everywhere."

One woman asked him to make sure the Queen's corgis are well looked after following her death.

"I saw them the other day," the Prince replied. "That made me a little bit sad, but they're going to be well looked after. They're two very sweet corgis."

Another showed him a large soft toy Paddington Bear she and her family had brought with them from Peru.

It is the first time since the death of Queen Elizabeth II that the King and his heir have undertaken a joint engagement, in a sign of their now-close working relationship. Later today, the Prince and Princess of Wales will join the King for lunch at Buckingham Palace, where he is hosting governors-general from the Commonwealth.

In a signal of the Wales' increasingly central role in overseas diplomacy, they will join a close-knit group of a dozen governors-general for conversation about the late Queen and the Commonwealth she held so dear.

At Buckingham Palace, the couple joined extended members of the senior working Royal family for a reception, along with the Queen Consort, Princess Royal and Sir Timothy Laurence, and the Earl and Countess of Wessex. The Princess of Wales, wearing a black dress and a three-strand pearl necklace, was seen talking to Commonwealth dignitaries, at one point placing her hand on the arm of Saint Lucia's governor-general Cyril Errol Melchiades Charles.

'You're doing an amazing job. It means so much to our family. It's like nothing we could have imagined'

The Princess was seen deep in conversation with the Queen Consort, as the members of the Royal family mingled with the governors-general of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

The then-Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Earl and Countess of Wessex have this year been on tours to the Caribbean, which were overshadowed by a series of declarations that islands would soon seek to remove the Queen as head of state.

The palace has emphasised that the decision would be a matter for the people of each country.

The King has succeeded his mother as head of the Commonwealth, and is keen to continue her work in keeping the "family of nations" together.

Earlier in the day, the King had invited the Prince of Wales to meet him at the end of a visit to the Metropolitan Police Service Special Operations Room, the headquarters of police plans for public safety in the aftermath of the Queen's death, part of Operation London Bridge.

The King's visit was at his personal request, to thank service personnel including members of British Transport Police, London Ambulance Service, the Army and London Fire Brigade. He was greeted on arrival by the new Met Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley, Home Secretary Suella Braverman, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Lord Lieutenant of Greater London Sir Ken Olisa.

Speaking to the operation planning team, who prepare policing efforts at football matches and protests in the capital, the King asked: "Have you been planning for a long time… or have you just been drafted in?"

One officer responded: "Yes your Majesty, we've been planning for about three years. There were teams before us."

He replied: "And the plans are working?"

The officer said: "They are, absolutely."

"That's the most encouraging thing," the King said, describing their work as "absolutely fantastic" and adding: "Thank you."

Outside, father and son walked down a long line of well-wishers, to shouts of "God Save the King" and "three cheers". Several told the King they were praying for him and his family.

The Prince joked that his father was the more professional hand-shaker, saying he could teach him some tricks on how to do walkabouts.

"He's got the quickest hands ever," he said, laughing. "I've got to pick up some tips."

One mourner was heard telling the King: 'I am from the Netherlands!' to which the King replied: "Wow, my mother would have been very touched."

Rachel Burridge, 55, a travel agent from Bishop's Stortford, told him: "I'm so sorry about your mother."

"We were very lucky to have her," the King said, before Ms Burridge replied: "Yes, and now we're lucky to have you."

Andrew's prospects are bleak without chief supporter

With King digging in his heels, chance of comeback by Duke of York are slim after death of his mother

By Victoria Ward
ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

WITH the death of the Queen, the Duke of York lost both his mother and any lingering possibility of a return to public duties.

The unconditional love and support the monarch showed for her son had long offered him a glimmer of hope that he might eventually be accepted back into the fold. That expectation, while probably misplaced, is no more.

For while the Duke was allowed to don his naval uniform to mount a coffin vigil last week, few expect to see him in such regalia again. The King has made clear that there will be no reprieve.

He has repeatedly insisted that the controversy over his brother should not be allowed to tarnish the monarchy and has stepped in more than once to keep him out of the public eye.

Those closest to the Duke, 62, acknowledge that he will have to sit down with the monarch and thrash out a plan for his future. No one believes it will involve a return to royal duty.

The Queen had been Prince Andrew's biggest champion. At times, barring the unwavering support of his former wife, the Duchess of York, she was his only champion. "Andrew took great comfort in his mother's support, particularly over his links with Jeffrey Epstein," one friend said. "He could count on her and relied heavily on her counsel."

When the Duke's friendship with Epstein, the convicted sex offender, repeatedly threatened to engulf the monarchy, the Queen did her utmost to steady the ship.

The first explosive claim that 17-year-old Virginia Giuffre, who was trafficked by Epstein, had repeatedly been forced to have sex with Prince Andrew appeared in January 2015.

Buckingham Palace issued a denial, stating that any suggestion he was involved in impropriety with under-age minors was "categorically untrue".

The Queen was said to be horrified. But she believed her son when he told her he had done nothing wrong.

That loyalty did not waver as the crisis snowballed, leading to his disastrous *Newsnight* interview and a civil case that raised the prospect of his appearing on the witness stand in a New York courtroom.

But the Queen offered public and private support. She paid for his legal fees and was the shoulder he leaned on over many cups of tea in the drawing room at Windsor Castle.

When matters reached a head in January, the monarch responded to public pressure by stripping her son of his honorary military titles and charity patronages. But the door never closed.

In March, he accompanied his frail mother to Westminster Abbey for the Duke of Edinburgh's memorial service, guiding her to her seat.

Senior members of the Royal family were "dismayed" by this turn of events but they also knew that the Queen's bond with her son was unbreakable. "She was a mother first," one source said. "With him, that never changed."

'Andrew took great comfort in his mother's support. He could count on her and relied on her counsel'

Born a decade after the Princess Royal, Andrew gave the Queen an opportunity to be a different, more hands-on mother.

When Prince Charles and Princess Anne were young, the monarch was consumed by the demands of her role and was often abroad.

Andrew's arrival offered her another chance at motherhood and she enjoyed it, indulging him in a way she had not done with his siblings.

The pair continued to be close, not least as Andrew lived almost next door on the Windsor estate. He was her most frequent visitor, popping in for tea and keeping her entertained.

In November 2019, just days after the Queen effectively sacked him as a working member of the Royal family amid the fallout from his *Newsnight* interview, she was photographed out riding with him. It was rightly interpreted as a personal show of support.

Earlier this year, the Duke gently pushed her for a return to duties, asking to be reinstated as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. His efforts were almost rewarded with an appearance alongside senior members of the Royal family at the annual Order of the Garter ceremony, when he was due to take part in the colourful procession at Windsor Castle resplendent in velvet robes and the traditional plumed hat.

But it was a step too far for Prince Charles and his heir, Prince William, who feared a backlash and lobbied the Queen for a change of plan.

Although their intervention ensured the Duke remained out of public sight, he was undeterred. He deployed his daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie, to lobby Prince Charles this summer at Balmoral but their request to allow their father to return to royal duties inevitably fell on deaf ears.

The Duke's prospects are now more uncertain than ever. "The Queen always stood by him and she believed in him," one source said.

"Perhaps, had she lived for many more years, she may have tried to help him stage some kind of a comeback. But now, there is no way back."



Queue set to close today as time runs out for mourners

By **Olivia Rudgard, Blathnaid Corless** *and* **Emily-Jane Heap**

THE accessible queue to see the Queen lying in state closed permanently yesterday afternoon as officials warned the main queue would also shut today.

Lying in state will end at 6.30am tomorrow, the day of the Queen's funeral. But entry is expected to close hours in advance, with visitors to be advised not to travel to join the queue later today.

The separate, shorter queue for disabled visitors had "reached full capacity" by 4.30pm yesterday, the Government said, with people asked not to join as there were no more time slots.

A government source said: "The public desire to view the lying in state has been phenomenal and we want as many people as possible to be able to pay their respects to the Queen.

"But we also don't want people to make long journeys especially to join the queue only to find it has been closed, so we will give people as much notice as possible – including advice not to set off if they are hoping to join the queue – so they can avoid disappointment.

"We are monitoring the numbers incredibly closely to make a judgement on final capacity, which is a tricky balancing act, and we know some people will unfortunately miss out.

"We have always said we will need to close the queue well in advance of the lying in state ending because of huge demand.

"The public have been incredibly understanding throughout and we would like to thank them for the way they have approached the queue."

On Friday evening the accessible queue closed at 8pm and did not reopen again until noon yesterday.

Many people missed out after the kiosk closed and had to go home without paying their respects to the Queen, while others joined the back of the main queue instead.

Those waiting from yesterday morning in the accessible queue spent six

'We are monitoring the numbers incredibly closely to make a judgement on final capacity'

hours securing their time slots before it closed at around 4.30pm.

Towards the end of the main queue paramedics from the London Ambulance Service said they were working to spot "stoic" people struggling with steps and help them shorten their remaining journey to Westminster Hall.

Judy Smith, 75, was using a crutch and joined the back of the main queue at 4.20am yesterday, reaching Lambeth Bridge by 2.30pm.

"I've been given a wristband now because I can't do steps any more ... It means there's been a bit of a hold-up behind me," she said.

The accessible queue was "not signposted anywhere and it said on the website that it was closed earlier today so we didn't bother. You weren't guaranteed to get in either," she said.

Sheila Wager, 85, was forced to queue twice yesterday as she lost her wristband and was told to rejoin at the back.

"I had to go all the way back to Southwark Park to get another band. That took another two hours out, and I'd already done three hours walking."

She joined the queue at 6am yesterday and at 2.45pm was given a band by marshals at Lambeth Bridge allowing her to fast-track the last portion of the queue.

Entry to the full five-mile route has already been suspended once, with visitors told not to join for six hours on Friday. On Friday afternoon and in the early hours of yesterday queue length estimates reached 24 hours, though no one nearing the front yesterday afternoon said they had waited anything close to that long.

On Friday mourners faced the coldest London night in months, with temperatures dropping as low as 7C (46F), and last night forecast to be similarly cold.

Despite this, spirits were high, with little sign that people were giving up.

One queue member, Philomena Pound, 71, had travelled over 200 miles from Blackpool. "If you really want to pay your respects to the Queen you will just keep going," she said.



Above, the King greets people in the queue with an impromptu walkabout in Lambeth, main. Right, he was joined by the Prince of Wales, and left, the Princess of Wales talks to the Queen Consort at a reception for Commonwealth governors-general at Buckingham Palace

Seamless succession is Her Majesty's final gift to nation

The late Queen expertly tutored her eldest son in how to be a king – and he has not disappointed

Simon Heffer



When, tomorrow, we concentrate on the final obsequies of our late Queen, we might perhaps reflect on what the much-repeated cliché about her service to our country really means.

In these pensive times, one service ought to stand above all others: the fact that, as the last 10 days have proved, she helped ensure that the passing of the Crown has gone exceptionally smoothly – far more smoothly than most would have predicted. The reasons aren't hard to see.

First, the late Queen involved her eldest son in statecraft from an early age. This was the opposite of how Queen Victoria behaved towards the previous longest-serving Prince of Wales, Edward VII, of whom she had so low an opinion that she refused to let him see state papers until he was over 50.

She feared he might blab their secrets to his circle of friends, whom she despised. Remarkably, Edward VII became a good and popular King.

By the time Charles was 30, he had met many of those who controlled the destinies of other countries, thanks to his inclusion in functions during state and other visits, and to his own overseas trips. The latter made him familiar especially to Commonwealth leaders. He has been a regular at Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings and G7 summits, ascending the throne as one of the best-known men in the world.

His long apprenticeship was thoughtfully used. The late Queen set an immaculate example of how to do the job of Sovereign. Since his succession he has conducted himself, under great grief and stress, exactly as she would have wished: exerting leadership over a nation in mourning through his own warmth and dignity.

His broadcast the day after her death was a masterpiece. It was about her, not him. While clearly in deep grief, he knew that this, perhaps above all moments, was when to act as the national figurehead. He articulated what tens of millions of us felt. He had to speak for himself, as a son, but also on behalf of a nation, many of whose people were in shock. He saw his mother do this in times of sadness. He also saw the ease with which she, by speaking with wisdom, united her people. He understands that perfectly.

The way the King has sought, in these early days, to reinforce an idea precious to the late Queen – the Union – exemplifies the smoothness of the succession. The plan for him to attend events in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to commemorate her life, and demonstrate the sincerity of his

'His broadcast the day after her death was a masterpiece. It was about her, not him'

belief in the UK and its common citizenship, was a masterstroke.

Critics have said that, once the obsequies are over, the Commonwealth will be in peril. We shall see. The funeral and events around it give the King the chance to meet Commonwealth leaders for the first time since becoming its head.

Again schooled by his mother, he knows the importance of emphasising to all nations of which he is head of state, and to Commonwealth republics, that their partnership of equals matters deeply to him.

This textbook kingship has come as a pleasant surprise to many. It should not have done. The King is an educated, sensible man who has never shirked the responsibilities of his position. Happily, he has on his succession and by his conduct and hard work (also in his mother's mould) won over his people. He begins his reign with a torrent of goodwill.

It was not always certain that this would be so. Tabloid newspapers railed at him before and after the end of his first marriage.

His critics redoubled their mockery when he dared to marry again. That, too, was predicted to be a disaster. In fact, the King's second wife comes second only to his late mother in deserving credit for ensuring the succession has proceeded so smoothly.

His duties have only just begun, and one more great test of the smoothness of the succession will shortly come. It is quite possible that much of the nation will awake on Tuesday morning with a sense of profound anti-climax.

The problems driven from our consideration when we learned of the late Queen's death will reappear: energy bills, inflation, international tensions, and a prime minister in office only two days longer than the King.

He deserves some private time to grieve; and to think about how he will undertake his duties. But he will need, through his actions probably more than his words, to demonstrate to his people that it is business as usual, and whatever the country's problems, they will be solved and the national mood stabilised. It is exactly what Her late Majesty would have done, and had, after all, prepared him to do.

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Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

Queen's Guards join 3am parade dry

Almost 900 troops attend early-morning rehearsal in Windsor where the late Queen will be laid to rest

By **Jack Hardy**

BRITISH soldiers who returned from Iraq to carry the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II yesterday joined a nighttime rehearsal involving hundreds of troops as an empty hearse was taken up Windsor's Long Walk.

A bearer party for tomorrow's funeral will be formed of 12 soldiers from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Queen's Company, which holds a unique association with the late Queen as she was the company commander. They will be among 1,157 members of the Armed Forces in Windsor next week when Queen Elizabeth II is laid to rest in St George's Chapel, in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

Traditionally, the Queen's Company holds the role of guarding the monarch's body in death, but there were fears they would not be able to perform their duties due to a recent deployment to Iraq. The late Queen made a personal review of the company every 10 years and next week its regimental flag will be laid on her coffin by King Charles III before it is lowered into the royal vault.

'There are tweaks needed, but I'm confident on the day we will be doing our absolute best'

Shortly after 3am, the streets of Windsor roared to life as regimental bands marched through the town and fell into line along the Long Walk.

The historic three-mile avenue will be the final road along which the hearse carrying the late Queen will travel before entering the grounds of Windsor Castle and her final resting place.

There will be 406 troops involved in the procession, with a further 477 expected to line the streets.

As dawn steadily approached yesterday, the soldiers lining the Long Walk bowed their heads as a distant beam of headlights appeared on the horizon.

It was the royal hearse, led by the pipes and drums and accompanied by an escort party from the Grenadier Guards. Ahead of the hearse was a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry Regiment, followed immediately by a mounted Division of the Sovereign's Escort, the Scottish and Irish Regiments, the bands of the Coldstream Guards and the Household Cavalry, officers of the Household Division, Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of Arms.

Tomorrow, they will be followed by members of the late Queen's personal staff. Behind the hearse will walk members of the households of the late Queen, the King and the Prince of Wales, followed by mounted and dismounted detachments of the Household Cavalry. The King and other members of the Royal family are expected to join the procession as it passes into the grounds of Windsor Castle.

Later in the evening, there will be a private interment service with senior members of the royal family.

The late Queen's final resting place will be the King George VI memorial chapel, an annex to the main chapel – where her mother and father were buried, along with the ashes of her sister, Princess Margaret.

The late Duke of Edinburgh's coffin will move from the Royal Vault to the memorial chapel to join the Queen's.

The involvement of hundreds of members of the Armed Forces has posed significant logistical challenges



Members of the Armed Forces line up for breakfast after their 3am rehearsal, below. Members of the 1st Battalion Coldstream practised their roles, below right, before taking off their uniforms, bottom right

Bank holiday to honour Queen will unite the country, say MPs

By **Gordon Rayner**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LIZ TRUSS has been encouraged by senior MPs to create a bank holiday to honour Queen Elizabeth's lifetime of service and encourage communities to get together as they did for her jubilees.

Campaigners believe the best memorial to the late Queen would be to carry on the tradition of national get-togethers that she inspired during her record-breaking reign.

Downing Street is understood to be considering a proposal which is being championed by Brendan Cox, the widowed husband of the late Labour MP Jo Cox. Around 150,000 people have already signed a petition in support of the move, and it has the backing of business leaders, who have dismissed previous suggestions that it would hit the economy.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the former Conservative Party leader, is to table an early day motion in the Commons calling for a bank holiday, which he hopes will be supported by the Government.

Mr Cox said: "In this country we are very bad at celebrating our history and coming together to celebrate the things that connect us.

"Other countries, like America and France, have Independence Day, Thanksgiving or Bastille Day, where people come together to celebrate moments of great meaning for that country.

"We have nothing similar, but we saw during the Platinum Jubilee and previous jubilees that people enjoy getting together with their neighbours if they are given a reason to, and the Queen was the ultimate example of something that connects us all.

"I would love to think that people would have street parties once a year or another form of neighbourhood get-together to continue that spirit we saw during the Jubilee."

150,000

The number of people who have signed a petition in support of a bank holiday to honour Queen Elizabeth's lifetime

In the past, prime ministers have been reluctant to grant extra holidays because they are thought to be detrimental to the economy, but a recent study by the accountancy firm PwC suggested that a bank holiday honouring Queen Elizabeth II could have a net positive effect on the economy.

Among the organisations supporting the idea are the Confederation of British Industry, UK Hospitality, the Trades Union Congress and teaching unions.

Sir Iain said: "If you look at the public's response to the death of the Queen, this seems like a logical step to take.

"I'm sure it would be a popular move with the public and it would also be a great unifier for the four nations of the Union, as it could apply across the UK, whereas many current bank holidays are unique to the different parts of the UK. "I have raised this with Downing Street in the past week and I would urge them to give it serious thought."

One possible date for a bank holiday is the third Monday in September – the day of the late Queen's funeral – though it is less than a month after the August bank holiday, meaning other dates might be considered more suitable.

Spectators set up camp ahead despite the chill

By **Gurpreet Narwan**
and **Emily-Jane Heap**

SPECTATORS are camping out on The Mall to secure their spot outside Buckingham Palace ahead of the Queen's funeral tomorrow.

People have set up makeshift campsites and are staying overnight in sleeping bags to make sure they catch a glimpse of the procession when it passes the Queen Victoria memorial.

Some initial attempts to camp out were thwarted by authorities but it appears that many are now disregarding police guidelines, which strongly discourage people from camping along the route.

Tracey Lawrence, 34, and her mother Fiona, 62, from Newcastle, arrived in London at 2pm yesterday and set up camp halfway along The Mall. Tracey said: "We just thought we're never going to see anything like this again. At the end of the day it's history."

Fiona added: "The Queen served us for 70 years – a few days camping is nothing in comparison. It's a bit chilly but we're from Newcastle so it doesn't bother us."

Diana funeral stops 'blackout' tomorrow

By **Oliver Gill** *and* **Rachel Millard**

PRINCESS Diana's funeral has been used by the National Grid to model electricity requirements and avoid power blackouts during Queen Elizabeth's ceremonial proceedings tomorrow.

Bosses at National Grid and UK Power Networks have spent the last week modelling a series of historical major events that also include ceremonies for the death of the Queen Mother, the London Olympics and Prince Philip's funeral last year.

Preparations for Her Majesty's funeral got off to a difficult start last week as engineers on the London Underground sparked chaos when testing "maximum resilience of the network" ahead of well-wishers flocking to the capital to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth.

The Sunday Telegraph has learnt that the unexpected testing by Transport for London (TfL) was to blame for a major power outage that caused chaos during the morning rush hour last Monday.

Packed Piccadilly and Victoria Line services were hit by a power outage. In the chaotic scenes that followed, Oxford Circus had to be evacuated. TfL quickly ordered a "moratorium on non-essential, non-safety work" to avoid a repeat of the chaos ahead of the late Queen's funeral.

National Grid, which balances national power supplies, and UK Power Networks, which distributes electricity in London and the south-east, are understood to have been surprised by last Monday's outage as similar testing by engineers had already been suspended.

In conjunction with Whitehall officials from multiple government departments, senior representatives National Grid and UK Power Networks were scrambled shortly after the announcement of Her Majesty's death on Sept 8.

Although detailed plans were already in place as part of Operational London Bridge – the codename for ceremonial proceedings following the death of Queen Elizabeth – planned leave was cancelled as staff began working night and day to ensure that the lights stayed on. One source said that the most relevant royal funerals used for modelling of power are for Princess Diana and the Queen Mother.

run after dash back from Iraq

in Windsor as the number of troops performing their duties in the town tomorrow roughly corresponds to the number who take part in Trooping the Colour, the parade held each year to mark the sovereign's official birthday.

"The remarkable thing about this is the speed with which it has been pulled together," one military source said.

The nearby Victoria Barracks, home to the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, is currently hosting another 719 members of the Armed Forces. Giant marquees have had to be erected in the parade square to feed around 900 people a day.

The mealtimes themselves have presented something of a rarity for the British Armed Forces by providing a venue for different regiments to sit and eat together.

'I think the troops in the Armed Forces feel a greater affinity to her than everyone else'

Following the rehearsal, Lt Col Fred Wells, commander 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, said: "It's the first time that we have come together – Army, Navy and Air Force. We've been rehearsing separately.

"It's definitely one where there are tweaks needed, but I'm confident on the day we will be doing our absolute best.

"Everyone wants to do their level best to give the Queen the most fitting and appropriate send-off."

He added: "People feel incredibly sad by her passing, because she's the Queen. To the Armed Forces she's commander in chief, she was our colonel in chief too – I think the troops in the Armed Forces feel a greater affinity to her than everyone else."

Lt Col Wells also revealed his own previous encounters with the late Queen, including when they danced together at Balmoral.

Asked what was going through his mind at the time, he replied: "Don't knock her hat off."

Windsor resident Donna Stoneman, 55, was watching the rehearsal yesterday and said the bagpipes reminded her of the late Queen's piper who she regularly heard playing outside Her Majesty's window.

'It is going to be very quiet in Windsor Castle without her'

She said: "It was always a comfort to see that the Royal Standard was flying. It is going to be very quiet in Windsor Castle now without her."

Hannah and Peter Leech, 40 and 43, and their daughter Catherine, 12, had been on their way to London from Bournemouth in the early hours of the morning when they decided to stop in at Windsor. They had hoped to be able to lay some flowers while the town was quiet but instead got to be among a handful of early risers who witnessed the rehearsal.

Ms Leech said: "It's amazing and very surreal to be here. We wanted to come here to give our appreciation for all that the Queen did."







JEFF GILBERT FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Toothpicks at dawn as King's Troop prepped guns

By **Dominic Nicholls**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (DEFENCE)

"BRIDGE, BRIDGE, BRIDGE," the text said. "Operation LONDON BRIDGE has been activated. Initiate telephone cascade. All personnel are to return to camp."

The terse message was the first Captain Amy Cooper, second in command of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, had heard of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

She was in Calgary when the news broke, along with soldiers exercising with Canadian mounted units. The British party was flying back to the UK within five hours. Soldiers in Turkey and America had to cancel their family holidays and return to the UK.

Capt Cooper, 31, from Motcombe, Dorset, had to respond to the text alert to let regimental headquarters know she was relaying the information to troops under her command.

"We were seven hours behind in Calgary. I had all my uniform with me ready to just put it on and be out the door if necessary," Capt Cooper said.

Not long afterwards, Capt Cooper led the gun team carrying the Queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall. Tomorrow she will be leading the gun team in Hyde Park for Queen Elizabeth's funeral.

The King's Troop, a unit of about 160 soldiers, has one of the most important ceremonial roles in the Armed Forces.

Its six 13-pounder quick-fire guns are used regularly for royal salutes in Hyde Park, Green Park or Windsor Great Park for state occasions and to mark royal anniversaries and royal birthdays.



Capt Amy Cooper is second in command of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, which will carry out the gun salute

The gun carriage is known as the George Gun Carriage, and carried King George VI's coffin from Sandringham Church to Wolferton Station in February 1952. It was also used in the funeral of the Queen Mother in 2002.

Protocol states that within six hours of receiving the official notification of the monarch's death, the King's Troop must fire the death gun salute in Hyde Park unless, as in the case of Queen Elizabeth II, the death announcement comes after 5pm. In this instance the salute was fired the next day. "Nothing could start for Operation London Bridge until that death-gun salute had been fired," Capt Cooper said.

One round was fired every 10 seconds in Hyde Park for every year of the Queen's life; 96 rounds in all.

The King's Troop then had one night to prepare the horses and guns for the Proclamation Salute, a process that normally takes 100 hours. This involved stripping and polishing leather using pieces of old ceremonial uniform.

"It takes hours to get that deep shine," Capt Cooper said. "They'll keep doing it until it's to the correct standard."

The horses' harness and leather work is inspected. Meanwhile, Capt Cooper's role is to inspect the guns, which will have been meticulously cleaned, including the use of toothpicks to get in between the tiny crevices. "I will check all parts of the gun with a white glove to make sure it is spotless," she said.

The horses are "salute groomed" which comprises a bath followed by a rub down with hot cloths to produce a lustrous shine in their coats.

Tomorrow's funeral will comprise six guns; three each in London and Windsor. Guns will fire one round a minute as the Queen's coffin is transported from Westminster Hall to Hyde Park Corner, where it will be transferred to a hearse. The guns in Windsor will fire from the arrival of the hearse to the moment the coffin is carried inside the George VI Memorial Chapel.

Getting the builders out was the priority as Operation Marquee swung into action

By **Edward Malnick, Will Hazell** *and* **Nick Gutteridge**

Five years ago a scaffolding firm received a telephone call at an "ungodly hour". One of their biggest clients needed them on site, with a full crew, a crane, and any other necessary equipment to take down the vast scaffolding at the location.

That client was the UK Parliament and the occasion was an unannounced and secretive rehearsal of preparations for the lying-in-state of the Queen, codenamed Operation Marquee.

Last week, those plans were put into action for real, and some of those most intimately involved in Operation Marquee, and Operation London Bridge, the overall plan for the death of the monarch, have provided *The Sunday Telegraph* with a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the biggest state-run operation since the London Olympics.

Within hours of the public announcement of the Queen's death on Thursday Sept 8, scores of builders and scaffolders descended on the Palace of Westminster. Carefully worded clauses in Parliament's contracts with such firms required them to "make good" their work and clear all materials from the main courtyard without delay in the event of the monarch's death.

'The timeframe to get Westminster Hall completely ready for the events is very, very tight'

The 900-year-old Westminster Hall, in which Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, George V and Sir Winston Churchill previously lay in state, was always going to be at the centre of Operation London Bridge.

Despite constant works to maintain and repair the building, it was critical that it could always be stripped back to host Queen Elizabeth II's lying-in-state in the space of several hours.

"The timeframe to get Westminster Hall completely ready for the events is very, very tight," said David Leakey, who, as a former Black Rod, was in charge of the Operation Marquee preparations for almost seven years.

More than 50 public service organisations involved in organising London Bridge over many years and, within government, civil servants passed up promotions to remain on the operation in recent years.

"During my seven years as Black Rod, as the Queen got older, the rehearsal of the Operation Marquee plans was really accelerated," Mr Leakey said.

"They were in a state of readiness."

Early on Friday morning, as building contractors hastily cleared away materials being stored in New Palace Yard, the main courtyard in front of the House of Commons and Westminster Hall, a separate operation was under way to take down scaffolding in the hall itself and cover the vast metal frame on the outside of the building with shrink wrap printed with a design to replicate the hidden exterior.

Similarly camouflaged platforms were erected within the hall for the media and visiting dignitaries.

The previous evening, along with calls to contractors, parliamentary officials began reconfiguring the Palace of Westminster and its staff to focus purely on accommodating a 24-hour-a-day event that would run for more than four days and be seen by billions around the world.

The arrangements ranged from ordering the construction of the vast marquee in which security checks would be carried out on mourners visiting the hall, to cancelling food orders for scores of events that would have to be called off, and redeploying staff such as tour guides to play key roles in the operation. "It is a massive team operation across the whole of the Houses of Parliament's administration," said a source.

In Whitehall, meanwhile, teams of officials in each of the Cabinet Office, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Department for Transport, Home Office and Foreign Office, all began dusting off plans for their departments' roles in London Bridge. Nadhim Zahawi, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, began chairing daily meetings of ministers to coordinate the work, informed by updates on security and crowds from the Government's National Situation Centre.

'During my seven years as Black Rod, as the Queen got older, the rehearsal of the Operation Marquee plans was really accelerated. They were in a state of readiness'

DCMS officials oversaw the lowering of flags to half mast across government buildings and arranged for the flags of Commonwealth countries, Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to be raised in key locations.

An around-the-clock operations room was set up in Archbishop's Park, next to Lambeth Palace, to coordinate Operation Feather, the organising of the lying-in-state queue.

The personnel playing crucial roles range from 500 Foreign Office staff helping with the logistics of foreign leaders descending on London from around the world, to a gritting team from Westminster council who raked a thick layer of sand over the cobbles of New Palace Yard hours before the arrival of the horse-drawn gun carriage bearing the Queen's coffin on Wednesday.

The plans rehearsed in advance included the tiniest details. "If you haven't thought about these things [in advance] then you won't be able to get it right," a Government source said.

Pride of place Fourth plinth could honour late monarch

Trafalgar Square's fourth plinth could feature a statue of Queen Elizabeth II.

Downing Street sources told *The Times* talks would soon begin on how to mark the Queen's life.

The fourth plinth was built for a statue of King William IV, but so unpopular was the late monarch that in 1837 the government was unable to raise the money for it… it has been bare ever since.

Some say the fourth plinth is not a prominent enough location, and Parliament Square would be more suitable.

"Being one of four statues in Trafalgar Square is not good enough," said Tory MP David Jones.

The Greater London Authority said the location of any statue was a matter for the Royal family and it was prepared to support them in their wishes.

The only full-size statue of the Queen in the UK is at Windsor Great Park.



Tory anger over 'Establishment

Sir Iain Duncan Smith says 'enormous pressure' was used to let leaders attend Queen's lying-in-state

By **Will Hazell** *and* **Gordon Rayner**

THE Government has been accused of "appeasing" China by allowing its leaders to attend the Queen's lying-in-state.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith claimed that the "Establishment" had "leant" on Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the House of Commons Speaker, to get him to admit a Chinese delegation to Westminster Hall.

It follows several days of confusion about whether the delegation would be able to attend the lying-in-state.

Earlier in the week, MPs sanctioned by China said that they had been assured by Sir Lindsay that Chinese officials would not be given access. However, yesterday a Parliamentary spokesman said that foreign representatives "invited to attend the state funeral in Westminster Abbey are also invited to attend the lying-in-state".

Sir Iain told *The Sunday Telegraph* that he believed "enormous pressure" had been put on Sir Lindsay, as well as Lord McFall, the Lords Speaker, to avoid a diplomatic incident.

"It's clear and obvious that the Establishment leant on the Speakers to give way," he said.

"The people that win at the end of the day are the Chinese Communist Party, which is a brutal, dictatorial and anti-human rights organisation and all we've done is given them another victory."

He added: "It looks like appeasement is back, alive and well in the British Establishment."

A Foreign Office source denied the claim, saying: "The Government did not put pressure on the Speaker."

'The people that win at the end of the day are the Chinese Communist Party, which is brutal, and anti-human rights'

The *Telegraph* understands that protocol about access to Westminster Hall during the lying-in-state has been complicated by the fact that jurisdiction over the space is shared between the Lord Great Chamberlain – who is appointed by the monarch – and the speakers of the Commons and the Lords.

A spokesman for Sir Lindsay said that a decision taken last year to ban the Chinese ambassador from entering Parliament remained in place.

Elsewhere, US president Joe Biden has delayed a formal meeting with Liz Truss until after Queen Elizabeth II's funeral in order to concentrate on paying his respects today and tomorrow.

Mr Biden had originally been due to visit Ms Truss in Downing Street today but instead the meeting will take place at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York on Wednesday.

The White House said Mr Biden and his wife, Jill, who arrived in London late last night, would pay their respects to the late Queen in person before signing the official book of condolence at Lancaster House.

During a hectic 48-hour stay in London they will then attend a reception hosted by the King at Buckingham Palace this evening and will fly back to the US tomorrow after the funeral.

Yesterday, Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, was one of the first world leaders to attend the late Queen's lying in state.

As hundreds of foreign dignitaries began arriving in London for the biggest ever gathering of world leaders on British soil, Mr Trudeau and his wife Sophie joined mourners in Westminster Hall before signing the book of condolence. Foreign dignitaries are allowed to use a special VIP lane rather than queueing with the public.

'[My visit is about] commemorating a life well-lived. It's a great honour to be representing Australia here'

He said he was in Britain to "pay tribute to [a] lifetime of public service" from the monarch who was Canada's head of state.

Anthony Albanese, the Australian prime minister, was another of the heads of government of the Commonwealth realms to visit Westminster Hall.

He started the day by laying a bouquet of white flowers in Green Park, joining countless other floral tributes from the public, together with his partner, Jodie Haydon.

He said his visit was about "commemorating a life well-lived", adding: "It's a great honour to be representing Australia here.

"Quite clearly, what we can see all around us is the affection in which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was held by

Trouser suits are fine, but guests must leave their swords at home

By **Victoria Ward**
and **India McTaggart**

MOURNERS invited to pay their respects to Sir Winston Churchill, at the UK's last full state funeral, wore top hats, fur coats and greatcoats.

Queen Elizabeth II's funeral will reflect the changing times, with women advised that "trouser suits may be worn".

The bright-green invitation, a version of which was sent to world leaders, politicians, public figures and European royals, as well as more than 500 dignitaries from around the world, is a simple, no-frills affair with a black trim.

Guests are informed that while the doors to Westminster Abbey will open at 8am, the main congregation should be seated by 9.30am ahead of the 11am ceremony.

Heads of state and royalty will arrive between 9.45am and 10.40am before the coffin procession departs Westminster Hall at 10.45am.

Serving members of the Armed Forces are told to wear full ceremonial dress and mourning bands, but are warned "no swords".

Men can wear morning dress or lounge suits, while women can wear day dress, including hats. Decorations are allowed.

On the reverse of the admission card is a guest checklist containing "critical information" that they are advised to read carefully.

The scale of the security operation surrounding the event means that mourners will be required to show two forms of identification, including a photograph and proof of address.

They are told not to take cameras or any hand luggage, bar handbags and rainwear.

They must arrive at the accreditation area for security checks and Metropolitan Police searches from 8am.

The invitation warns that attendees will face passing through "airport-style search arches" as a condition of entry into Westminster Abbey and they are urged to assist the police in the "smooth running" of the checks. Guests were also advised that owing to the tight security and the large numbers of spectators expected to flock to central London for the funeral, that roads surrounding Westminster Abbey will be closed to all traffic from 10pm on Sunday. Therefore guests arriving by private vehicles or taxi drop-offs will have to stop in a specially designated area nearby, under the direction of the Metropolitan Police.

The scale of security for the event means that mourners will be required to show two forms of identification

The service will be the first full state funeral since Sir Winston Churchill's was held at St Paul's Cathedral on Jan 30, 1965. The late Queen had specifically requested that her first prime minister's funeral be a state occasion, describing him as a "national hero" who "in the hours of our greatest danger was the inspiring leader who strengthened and inspired us all".

Tomorrow, working members of the Royal family are expected to wear military uniforms. The Duke of York and the Duke of Sussex will be in morning dress, with medals.

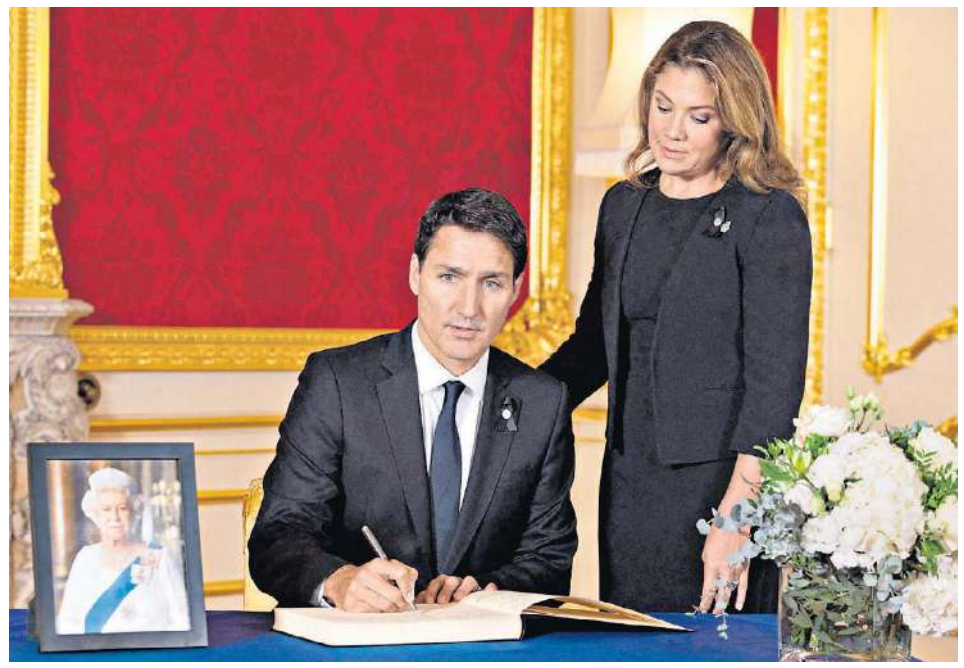
Many heads of state and government representatives, including foreign royal families, governors-general and realm prime ministers, will gather at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and travel together to Westminster Abbey by bus.

The plan was made due to fears of gridlock on the roads around Westminster and, as such, dignitaries have been asked to be as flexible as possible.

Some high profile leaders, including US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and President Isaac Herzog of Israel are expected to have their own transport based on security considerations.

Mr Biden has been permitted to travel in his armoured Cadillac, known as the Beast.







Clockwise from left: Joe Biden, the US president, and Jill Biden, the First Lady, board Air Force One at Andrews Air Force in Maryland, as they head to London to attend the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II; Justin Trudeau, prime Minister of Canada and his wife, Sophie, sign a book of condolence at Lancaster House; King Charles III speaks with Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand, as he receives realm prime ministers in the 1844 Room at Buckingham Palace; Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan leaving Haneda Airport in Tokyo, before heading to London

SUSAN WALSH/AP; DAVID PARRY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA; FRANCK ROBICHON/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK



kowtowing' to Chinese leaders

people here in the United Kingdom, but also, of course, in Australia and right around the Commonwealth."

Mr Albanese has said he will not allow a referendum on whether Australia should become a republic in his current term as Prime Minister.

Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's Prime Minister, and Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, also signed the book of condolence.

Mr Browne has said he wants to hold a referendum on replacing King Charles III as his country's head of state within three years.

Mr Albanese and Mr Trudeau were among leaders of the Commonwealth realms who met the King at a reception in Buckingham Palace at 3.45pm yesterday. They were joined by Ms Ardern, Andrew Holness, the Jamaican Prime Minister and Philip Davis, prime minister of the Bahamas.

Earlier in the day the King held a reception and lunch at 1pm for a dozen Governors General of the Commonwealth realms, who are his official representatives in foreign countries of which he is Head of State.

They included his representatives in Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Belize and St Lucia.

The Metropolitan Police has said that the global operation to guard so many world leaders in London is the biggest in its history, and that the policing of the funeral will also be the biggest policing operation ever in the UK.

The police are alert to the possibility of protests against the attendance of some leaders, particularly those with poor records on human rights.

Wang Qishan China's vice-president, will represent his country at the funeral despite ongoing accusations that the country is guilty of human rights abuses and even genocide in relation to Uighur Muslims.

'We can see the affection in which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was held by people here in the United Kingdom'

There has also been criticism of the decision to invite Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman after the CIA concluded that he had authorised the murder and dismemberment of Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudi journalist, in Turkey in 2018.

The leaders of Russia, Belarus, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria and North Korea were not invited to the funeral.

Other presidents and heads of state arriving over the weekend include Jair Bolsonaro, president of Brazil, Ursula von der Leyen, head of the European Commission, Yoon Suk-yeol, president of South Korea, and Cyril Ramaphosa, president of South Africa.

As well as heads of government, foreign royal families have started arriving for the funeral.

Among the congregation at Westminster Abbey will be King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain, King Carl XVI and Queen Silvia of Sweden, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan and Monaco's Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene.

The King of Tonga, the Sultan of Brunei and the King and Queen of Belgium will also be in the Abbey, and the New Zealand delegation will include the Maori king, Tuheitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII.

Emperor Naruhito's visit will be his first trip abroad since he ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in 2019.

Japanese emperors do not traditionally attend funerals for religious reasons.

It will be only the second time an emperor of Japan has done so, after Emperor Akihito visited Belgium for the funeral of King Baudouin in 1993.

'It's clear and obvious that the Establishment leant on the Speakers to give way'

The rare trip is a sign of the families' close ties over three generations. The imperial couple were scheduled to arrive at London Stansted Airport yesterday and will stay at Claridge's hotel.

During her 70-year reign Queen Elizabeth II visited 117 countries, travelling the equivalent of 42 times around the circumference of the Earth.

Her last foreign trip was to Malta in 2015, the island where she and Prince Philip lived early in their marriage.

Mr Albanese also met Ms Truss at Chevening, the country retreat of the Foreign Secretary in Kent – which is being used by the Prime Minister while Chequers is being renovated – along with Ms Ardern.

Today Ms Truss will hold one-to-one meetings in Downing Street with Mr Trudeau, Andrzej Duda, president of Poland and Micheal Martin, the Irish taoiseach.

Truss takes opportunity to conduct diplomacy with world leaders

Analysis

Statements and photos will not be released following formal meetings during the national mourning

By **Edward Malnick**
SUNDAY POLITICAL EDITOR

Just a fortnight into her premiership, Liz Truss is holding up to half a dozen meetings with world leaders this weekend as they fly into London for the state funeral. The talks have thrust the new Prime Minister onto the world stage after a fleeting time in Downing Street dominated by the death of the sovereign.

From Tuesday, the Prime Minister will then hold a series of talks at the United Nations in New York, including a meeting with Joe Biden, the US president, in lieu of an informal conversation planned for today.

Yesterday, Ms Truss held talks with prime ministers Anthony Albanese, of Australia, and Jacinda Ardern, of New Zealand, after the two leaders flew into the UK ahead of the Queen's funeral.

Today, she is due to meet Micheál Martin, Ireland's Taoiseach, Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada, and Andrzej Duda, Poland's president. Yesterday she also spoke to Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the UAE president, and was due to have a call with Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi Crown Prince, last night.

In diplomatic terms, however, the face-to-face meetings are being classed as formal "bilats", or bilateral talks, due to the period of national mourning, which continues until tomorrow.

That means that neither side will release the usual statements describing the content of each meeting and photographers will not be allowed into the room.

Officials have been at pains to point out that the meetings will be reflecting on the loss of Queen Elizabeth II.

Ms Ardern said the Queen's death and the accession of King Charles III would be the "focus of conversation", but acknowledged that the pair were also likely to discuss the trade deal signed between the UK and New Zealand in February, and the war in Ukraine.

"I am sure we will also transact our relationship as well, but it is all within the context of the week of mourning that the UK is currently in", she said.

This weekend's meetings also spell the beginning of a series of bilateral relationships that could play key roles in Ms Truss's premiership.

The meeting with Mr Martin, due to take place in No 10, comes amid a stand-off between the UK and EU over Britain's opposition to the Northern Ireland Protocol and after Ms Truss introduced legislation to effectively override it.

Crucial to Ms Truss will be any sign that the EU is willing to give ground and amend the parts of the Protocol which the UK insists are damaging businesses involved in cross-border trade.

Ms Truss's meeting with Mr Biden on Wednesday will set the tone for her relationship with the US president. The pair met while Ms Truss was foreign secretary and the Prime Minister will be hoping that she can build an allegiance.

On the Protocol, Ms Truss's best hope is that she can persuade Mr Biden that the UK's concerns are genuinely held and would justify unilateral action if the EU refuses to give ground.

This month, a White House read-out of the Prime Minister's first telephone call with Mr Biden stated that the two had discussed "the importance of reaching a negotiated agreement with the European Union on the Northern Ireland Protocol" – a remark widely interpreted as a warning to Ms Truss.

At his first meeting with Boris Johnson after becoming president, Mr Biden said they had "affirmed the special relationship between our people".

NI cut will take effect by November

Kwarteng pushes through Truss pledge as he shifts Treasury focus away from sharing proceeds of growth

By **Edward Malnick**
SUNDAY POLITICAL EDITOR

LIZ TRUSS's National Insurance cut will take effect in workers' November payslips, Kwasi Kwarteng is expected to announce this week, as he ditches the Coalition-era focus on "sharing the proceeds of growth".

In a statement to Parliament on Friday, the Chancellor will seek to deliver on the Prime Minister's pledge during the Conservative leadership contest that her tax cuts would provide "immediate" help to families and businesses – with the scrapping of the health and social care levy now due to benefit employees and employers within weeks.

Mr Kwarteng is expected to be unapologetic about scrapping the levy, despite criticism of the benefit of such a move to wealthier people.

Senior figures see the cut as part of a shift away from George Osborne's overarching mantra of sharing the proceeds of growth, to instead focusing on increasing growth. A source said that Ms Truss and Mr Kwarteng were "focused on growing the size of the pie so everyone gets a bigger slice, rather than descending into a redistributive fight over how we slice and dice the pie".

Mr Kwarteng's statement on Friday will follow a separate business support package due to be unveiled on Wednesday by Jacob Rees-Mogg, the Business Secretary. The plan was being finalised this weekend in talks involving No10, the Treasury and business department.

Later, the Chancellor will launch a "financial services package" entitled Big Bang 2.0, which is being drawn up to cut red tape and enhance competitiveness in the City. He is also due to announce the make-up of a new Council of Economic Advisers, which will provide separate advice to Treasury officials, after Ms Truss railed against the department's "orthodoxy" and Mr Kwarteng sacked its most senior civil servant.

Mr Kwarteng will link all of the measures to the Government's focus on boosting economic growth. Ministers have been told that all policies should face the same test: "How will it help grow the economy?" On Friday, Mr Kwarteng is also expected to formally scrap a planned rise in corporation tax and announce that he is lifting the cap on bankers' bonuses – another signal of his overriding focus on growth. The Prime Minister has also faced calls to bring forward the income tax cut planned for April 2024 and to slash business rates to help struggling high street firms.

Mr Kwarteng is expected to adopt a lower-key approach than one of his predecessors, eschewing the photoshoots in which Rishi Sunak took part before major financial statements, appearing on one occasion in slip-on sandals and, on another, in a Stanford University jumper. He is also said to have ditched the practice under Mr Sunak of official materials on social media bearing the chancellor's personal signature.



JOHN NGUYEN/PA

Pedal power A young driver, Myroslava Korzhyk, nine, who was evacuated from Ukraine earlier this year, gets ready for the Settrington Cup during the Goodwood Revival 2022 at the motor circuit in West Sussex. The two-part race sees children compete on part of the circuit in Austin J40 pedal cars.

Rein in rip-offs rather than mergers, watchdog told

By **Edward Malnick**

THE next head of Britain's competition regulator must focus on ending consumer rip-offs rather than stopping big mergers that would increase economic growth, Whitehall sources have said.

Whitehall and legal insiders criticised the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) for blocking deals that it is claimed would have helped to boost the economy.

Sarah Cardell, who is running the regulator on an interim basis, is a frontrunner to become its new chief executive, as part of an appointment process that began in July.

But a senior solicitor claimed that Ms Cardell represented "continuity and intervention", stating: "It is very clear her instinct is intervention: 'If in doubt, intervene.'"

Ms Cardell has been general counsel at the CMA since 2013. In recent years the watchdog has been criticised for taking an increasingly hard line on technology takeovers, including by blocking the acquisition of Giphy, the animated image firm, by Meta, the owner of Facebook.

The Meta decision was overturned by a tribunal in July, which ordered the CMA to look again at the deal.

A Whitehall source said: "We need to go back to the CMA being a real consumer champion.

"People are getting ripped off in tangible ways and the CMA is going after big mergers and telling start-up owners who they can and can't sell to.

"We need to get the CMA away from copying the EU's approach and instead thinking about what is good for economic growth."

In July, *The Sunday Telegraph* revealed that ministers were preparing to block Sheldon Mills, the chairman of Stonewall, from becoming chief executive, following a long-running row over the regulator's affiliation with the equalities charity.

Another contender for CMA chief executive is said to be Sonya Branch, another former senior figure at the watchdog, who is now general counsel at the Bank of England.

'We need to get the CMA away from copying the EU and thinking about what is good for economic growth'

In 2019, Mrs Branch spoke of how she was incorporating "diversity, wellbeing and inclusion" into the legal department's procurement policy.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, the Business Secretary, and the Liz Truss, the Prime Minister, will both sign off on the appointment, which is being considered by a civil service assessment panel.

Kwasi Kwarteng, the Chancellor, who ran the business department until recently, was said to favour an "outside appointment".

Liz Truss and Mr Kwarteng have said that economic growth will be the Government's priority and the Prime Minister has repeatedly spoken of a need to curtain interventions by the state.

The senior solicitor said: "If the Government wants to boost growth the approach the CMA has taken is toxic."

The solicitor said that decisions such as the Meta ruling had a "chilling effect" and led to other firms choosing now to pursue deals they feared would be blocked.

"In many cases those would have been deals and investments that would easily have got clearance four or five years ago," the solicitor said.

Responding to earlier criticism of the CMA's approach, Ms Cardell told the Law Society that it was "clear that effective competition enforcement is pro-business and pro-growth."

She added: "The economic evidence is overwhelming that competitive markets – not monopolies – provide the best environment in which to encourage investment, innovation and productivity."

The job description for the chief executive post stated: "As our Chief Executive, you will lead the organisation of 1,000 staff and a budget of just over £110m.

"You will be responsible for developing and delivering the purpose, strategy and vision of CMA."

The CMA, Ms Cardell and Mrs Branch declined to comment.

Prosperity crucial to combating Russia, Truss to tell the UN

By **Edward Malnick**

LIZ TRUSS is to tell world leaders that the pursuit of economic growth is key to facing down Russian aggression.

In a speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, the Prime Minister is expected to say that increased growth in countries such as Britain will help the free world take on authoritarian regimes and reduce the cost of living.

The speech, which will also include a call for nations to help Ukraine in its pushback against Russian forces, is expected to champion Ms Truss's approach in the UK of reducing the country's imports from malign states, and call for others to learn lessons from the invasion that began in February.

It comes after the Prime Minister told MPs 10 days ago that "secure energy supply is vital to growth and prosperity, yet it has been ignored for too long".

Ms Truss has promised to "ramp up supply" of energy in the UK, including by awarding more than 100 new licences for North Sea oil and gas production, speeding up the roll-out of renewable generators and ending the ban on fracking.


JUAN NAHARRO GIMENEZ/WIREIMAGE

Pink lady Penélope Cruz receives the National Cinematography Award at the 70th San Sebastian Film Festival in Spain.

Tories 'in a good place' to scrap ban on new grammars

By **Will Hazell**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIZ TRUSS could lift the ban on new grammar schools within months, senior Conservatives have said.

Sir Graham Brady, the chair of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers, said he believed the Government may back a planned amendment to the Schools Bill to pave the way for new selective schools.

Supporters of academic selection think they are in the strongest position they have been in for years after Ms Truss endorsed new grammars during the Tory leadership race and appointed pro-grammar MPs to the Department for Education.

While there are 163 grammars in England, new selective schools were outlawed by New Labour in 1998. Ms Truss has described herself as a "huge supporter" of grammar schools, choosing to send her own daughters to one.

Sir Graham said that he intended to introduce an amendment to the Government's Schools Bill to allow new grammars. "What we are aiming to do is not something that would force a big reorganisation of the schools system across the country, but rather something which would remove the statutory prohibition which prevents any new selective schools," he said.

He said his amendment would seek to do three things.

Firstly, it would overturn the Labour ban. Secondly, it would scrap a separate legislative bar on new free schools using academic selection.

Sir Graham said this would enable the "attractive possibility" of putting "new grammar schools in low-performing areas where there's very little choice of high-quality education" to "stir it up".

"The third thing that I would do [would] be to allow independent schools joining the state sector as academies to retain their existing admissions arrangements," he said.

"I suspect in difficult economic times you might find more independent schools that are just on the edge of viability, finding they just can't get enough people able to pay fees, and at the moment those schools are forced to become comprehensives.

"[I] anticipate we're in quite a good place on this."

NEWS BULLETIN

Protest held for man shot dead by police

Hundreds of people gathered outside New Scotland Yard yesterday in protest against the police over the shooting of unarmed black man Chris Kaba.

Mr Kaba was shot and killed by an armed Met officer in south-west London following a police chase.

The officer has been suspended and the incident is being investigated by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

The protests follow anger over the shooting and Mr Kaba's family have accused the Met of racism.

Among the protesters, who held up placards stating "Fight police racism", were former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. An inquest will be opened next month.

Stabbed woman police officer leaves hospital

One of the two officers stabbed in London on Friday has left hospital. The young female officer suffered potentially life-changing injuries after being knifed in the arm in Leicester Square.

A male officer who was stabbed three times in the neck and once in the chest remains under medical supervision in hospital, the Met said yesterday.

The incident happened at about 6am when the officers challenged a man they believed was carrying a knife.

A man, Mohammed Rahman, 24, has been charged with attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He remains in custody.

Restaurant fined after cockroach found in meal

A restaurant and takeaway has been ordered to pay more than £8,000 after a cockroach infestation was discovered.

Council inspectors launched an investigation into Bengal Spice near Selby, North Yorkshire, after a diner found a cockroach in their meal.

The restaurant's owners pleaded guilty to two counts of failing to comply with food safety regulations.

The restaurant was closed to deal with the infestation and ordered to carry out a deep clean before it was allowed to reopen a week later.

The business was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,066.80 as well as a victim surcharge of £190.

Murder arrests after man fatally injured

Two people have been arrested on suspicion of murder after a man was found dying in the street.

The 19-year-old man and 20-year-old woman were arrested following the death in the Heywood area of Rochdale yesterday morning.

Police said the man was discovered with serious injuries on Atholl Drive and died a short time later. Before he was found, another man had asked for help from people in a nearby property, police said.

Detective Chief Inspector Gina Brennand said: "Two suspects have been arrested – one is in custody for questioning; the other is receiving hospital treatment for a wound."

Missing London teen last seen in Aberdeen

A 15-year-old boy missing from London has travelled to Aberdeen, police have said.

Officers are appealing for help to trace Deandre Thompson, from Croydon, after he left home on Aug 24.

Inquiries to date have established that the teenager travelled to the Scottish city, possibly by train, and was in Union Square at around 8.25am on Aug 25. He was known to be in the city centre that day, however it is not known where he went next, Police Scotland said.

The boy is described as 5ft 9in, of slim build and with black hair. Police said he was wearing a distinctive grey Superdry top and black trousers.

Queen Victoria's treats for soldiers 'in the attic'

A box of "controversial" chocolate bars that date back to the time of Queen Victoria have been discovered in an attic in Lincolnshire.

A tin of 122-year-old Rowntree's chocolate, made in York in 1899, was recently found at a house in Immingham. The chocolates were sent as gifts to soldiers on behalf of the late Queen, and an auctioneer said it was "incredibly rare" to find a tin – especially with only one piece missing.

Paul Cooper, of Eddisons auctioneers, said Rowntree was owned by Quakers, who were pacifists, and thus opposed to war and did not want to profit from fighting.

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Universities under fire over degrees that don't 'pay'

TaxPayers' Alliance attacks 'Mickey Mouse' courses that lead to below-average earnings for graduates

By **Louisa Clarence-Smith**
EDUCATION EDITOR

UNIVERSITIES have been accused of continuing to offer "Mickey Mouse" degrees in subjects that will result in students earning less than their non-graduate peers.

The TaxPayers' Alliance has found 10 examples of undergraduate degrees in subjects such as "wildlife media" and "tourism studies", which analysis shows will result in earnings below the average of £26,000 for non-graduates in England five years after graduation.

A record number of 18-year-olds applied to study at university this year. Almost 40 per cent are starting degrees at UK universities this autumn, or have deferred to start next year.

However, the TaxPayers' Alliance warned that "far too many young people" have been "missold and misled into courses with few economic prospects".

Ministers have previously accused universities of running "threadbare" courses in order to get "bums on seats".

Earlier this year, Michelle Donelan, the former higher education minister, said it was "completely wrong" to think that just sending more students to university will help boost social mobility.

Courses criticised by the TaxPayers' Alliance included Concept and Comic Art at De Montfort University in Leicester, a three-year course which includes modules on "making comics", "world building" and "character building". The fee for UK students is £9,250 per year. However, the expected graduate salary of a Bachelor in Art from De Montfort after five years in the workforce is £24,497, according to Adzuna, the job search engine used by the Government for live data on the labour market.

The campaign group also cited a three-year undergraduate degree in Football Studies offered by the University of Central Lancashire. Research shows an expected salary of £23,946 after five years in the workforce from a sports science degree at the university.

There has not yet been a final-year cohort at the university to measure graduate salaries.

The TaxPayers' Alliance also raised concerns about the value of a three-year Black Studies degree offered by Birmingham City University and a degree in Tourism Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University in Kent, where hospitality and tourism graduates are in line for an expected salary of £22,984, according to Adzuna.

A De Montfort University spokesman said the Concept and Comic Art degree was "taught by highly skilled lecturers and practitioners and offers the chance for students to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge and the opportunity to progress to a number of careers".

£24,497

Projected earnings for Concept and Comic Art students. The average salary for non-graduates is £26,000

He added: "The value of a degree is much more than a resultant wage. It is also about contributing to life in a rich and varied way and the wellbeing and outlook of a graduate."

Harry Fone, grassroots campaign manager at the TaxPayers' Alliance said: "These dodgy degrees saddle students with unpayable debts that will inevitably be paid for out of the pocket of hard-working taxpayers. Government should reform student loans to ensure that university really pays."

Birmingham City University and the University of Central Lancashire declined to comment. Canterbury Christ Church University did not respond to a request for comment.



SHANE ANTHONY SINCLAIR / BFC / GETTY

Air ware A model showcases inflatable brown trousers on the runway for Harri, a Kerala-born designer, during London Fashion Week at the Old Selfridges Hotel.

Ukraine medics to put lessons of Cambridge to use at home

By **Louisa Clarence-Smith**

UKRAINIAN medical students who received training at the University of Cambridge over the summer are preparing to use the specialist skills they have learned to rebuild their country.

Twenty students from Kharkiv National Medical University arrived at the end of July for a seven-week programme of clinical placements. The exchange was organised after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February ended the students' practical teaching.

Vilena Chupina, 20, a fifth-year medical student, said the teaching the students had received in Cambridge would be vital in supporting Ukraine after the war. "Ukraine is going to need good doctors," she said.

Ms Chupina said that most of her fellow students would go straight back to Ukraine. "The war isn't finished but everyone wants to go back because Ukraine is home." She will first go to Germany, where her family fled after the invasion. The students hope to continue their studies online.

'Every Ukrainian who left home is missing it and you can't help but think of the people still in Kharkiv'

Anna Feskova, 21, also in her fifth year of medicine, said she was looking forward to returning to Ukraine. "I'm really grateful to have learned the skills I've learned but, of course, every Ukrainian who left home is missing it, and you can't help but think of the people who are still in Kharkiv."

Cambridge University co-ordinated the overall programme and clinical training was delivered by three hospitals. Students received training from university tutors, and from experts in surgical and medical specialties at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Royal Papworth Hospital and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. There was no cost to students, with travel and living expenses funded by a donation from Illumina, a biotechnology company, and accommodation funded by an anonymous donor.

Homerton College, where the students lived, provided opportunities for the students to socialise.

Lord Simon Woolley, Homerton's Principal, said: "Hosting the Ukrainian medics is a source of great pride, for me personally and for us at Homerton."

Lecturer faces £170k legal bill after claiming 'witch hunt' is racist

By **Berny Torre**

A BLACK British academic who claimed "witch hunt" is a racist term faces paying up to £170,000 to his former employers, *The Sunday Telegraph* can disclose.

Dr Mike Leary-Owhin, 66, a senior lecturer in spatial planning, was sacked from London South Bank University after being accused of bullying his line manager and "playing the race card".

He claimed he was unfairly dismissed and suffered racial discrimination. He alleged that his former friend and line manager, Dr Duncan Tyler, used racist terms against him during the disciplinary process.

The academic said he was accused of being a "witch hunter" who displayed aggressive and bullying behaviour, the tribunal was told. Dr Tyler said Dr Leary-Owhin had been "more concerned with witch hunting than changing his attitude" in staff meetings.

Dr Leary-Owhin is understood to have taken offence at the use of the term "witch hunting", as he claims it is a racist reference to his Nigerian heritage. A witch doctor can mean a magical healer in some African societies.

However, he has now lost his claims at an employment tribunal, which he attended dressed in formal Nigerian attire, and faces paying costs of £170,000 to the university. Dr Leary-Owhin told *The Telegraph* he intended to contest the claim at a hearing later this month. Dr Leary-Owhin, of Brixton, south London, told Croydon Employment Tribunal: "Some of these terms are well known racial or racist stereotypes for black men and have been for hundreds of years, since the advent of the 400-year-old North Atlantic trade in free West African people, ie aggressive, slippery, bully, unmanageable. I am certain Dr Tyler would not have used these words to describe a White-British male colleague, for which he presented no corroborative factual evidence."

'I was called terms that are known racist stereotypes for black men and have been for hundreds of years'

Dr Leary-Owhin was dismissed for misconduct following a disciplinary process in March 2019. Dr Tyler said in a statement during that process: "He is disruptive, a blocker, not a team player, does the minimum he can get away with, disrespect for anyone in management position and all management processes. His playing the race card was cheap and nasty."

Dr Tyler said Dr Leary-Owhin's race claims were "a game" and insisted that his comments during the disciplinary process had "no racial connotations".

He said: "I regret using the term 'race card'. I would not use it again."

"What you did to me was bullying." The tribunal ruled that Dr Tyler's comments were not racist.

Labour MP accused of anti-Semitism after calling off meeting including Israeli envoy

By **Camilla Turner**
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR MP has been accused of anti-Semitism after cancelling a meeting with a group of Indonesian senators allegedly "in revenge" for them asking to see the Israeli ambassador.

Khalid Mahmood, MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, was due to host 12 parliamentarians in the Commons, but called off the meeting after he was told they would be joined by a representative from the Jewish state.

Indonesia, the most populous Muslim-majority country, has no formal diplomatic ties with Israel but they were understood to be seeking an informal meeting with the ambassador in London to foster better relations.

Shaykh Paul Salahuddin Armstrong, managing director at the Association of British Muslims, said he was "shocked and appalled" by Mr Mahmood's behaviour, adding: "It would seem there is a strong element of anti-Semitism."



Khalid Mahmood said he had no time to organise security for the Israeli ambassador

Shaykh Armstrong explained he had travelled to London to accompany the Indonesian senators on April 7.

"They really wanted to meet him as he is a Muslim MP in England," he said. "But just the fact they wanted to meet the Israeli ambassador meant that 15 minutes before the meeting was due to start, he cancelled it."

David Abrahams, a former vice-president at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, who was involved in organising the trip, said he found the incident "alarming".

Mr Abrahams, a long-standing Labour activist who has resigned from the party in protest, said: "He took revenge on the senators for daring to have the audacity to want to see the Israeli ambassador." He added the Labour hierarchy had declined to even look into his complaint.

Mr Mahmood rejected claims of anti-Semitism, saying he cancelled the meeting because he was only told at the last minute about the Israeli ambassador's inclusion and did not have time to organise security.

Barker: I served up my own Wimbledon exit rather than let myself be pushed out

By **James Moules**

SUE BARKER has said she wanted to leave Wimbledon on her "own terms" rather than be "pushed out the door", as she referenced her exit from *A Question of Sport* after 24 years.

The broadcaster and ex-tennis star, 66, bid a tearful farewell to the tournament this year after 30 years of presenting coverage of it for the BBC.

Appearing on *Desert Island Discs*, the 1976 French Open champion reminisced about the highs and lows of her career and told presenter Lauren Laverne that the way she and her fellow *A Question of Sport* team captains, Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell, had been replaced meant she wanted to be in control of her Wimbledon departure.

Barker said: "Matt, Tuffers and I, we are like best mates. We were devastated when it came to an end but all good things end. It wasn't our choice and we sort of knew it was coming.



Sue Barker, the broadcaster, said the end of her tenure at A Question of Sport influenced how she left Wimbledon job

"The way it was handled made me think more about Wimbledon and about why I then wanted to walk away on my own terms rather than be pushed out the door. To be taken into a room after 24 years and be told, 'We don't want you anymore', I just wish they handled the end a little better." The Devon-born presenter chose the soundtrack to Wimbledon's Parade Of Champions 2022 as her first desert island disc.

Struggling to hold back her tears, she told Laverne: "It was so wonderful and at the end of it, John McEnroe decided to say 'well done' to me for 30 years and the crowds reaction went on and on and for them to give me that ovation, I thought 'job done'. It was really, really emotional. I don't know how I held it together out there."

Speaking about the tributes, which included her idol Billie Jean King calling her the greatest of all time, Barker said: "I never expected the tributes from my fellow players from my era and from the current era.

"It was surprising, embarrassing, emotional, it was everything."

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Senior Tories back public interest defence for leaks

Whistleblowers would be given protection under proposed amendment to National Security Bill

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

WHISTLEBLOWERS who leak Government secrets in the public interest would be protected from being jailed under a proposed law backed by senior Tories and a parliamentary intelligence chief.

An all-party group of MPs is backing an amendment to the Government's National Security Bill that would provide a legal defence for whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing or misconduct in the public interest.

It would place the onus on the leaker to justify their actions and exclude data dumpers such as Julian Assange, whose unexpurgated leaks are said to have put the lives of agents at risk.

The MPs say it would strengthen national security by providing a clearly defined defence instead of having juries make their own judgments about what can be leaked, notably in the case of Clive Ponting, the civil servant in the Ministry of Defence who leaked documents about the sinking of the Belgrano in the Falklands War and was acquitted at the Old Bailey.

The amendment's backers include former Cabinet ministers David Davis and Alistair Carmichael and Kevan Jones, a former defence minister and senior member of the intelligence and security committee. It was to be tabled by former justice secretary Sir Robert Buckland until he was appointed Welsh Secretary in the new Cabinet.

The Bill modernises the Official Secrets Act by introducing offences that would counter cyber attacks, interference in elections and the theft of trade secrets, proposing civil orders to restrict the movements of suspected spies and increasing the maximum sentences for convicted foreign agents from 14 years to life.

"There will be people in the intelligence agencies saying it (the amendment) will encourage people to betray the state when they don't agree with a policy. That might be a marginal risk, but the bigger risk is that things get covered up under the Official Secrets Act, where Whitehall secrecy is used to do things that are not in the public interest," said Mr Davis.

Mr Jones said a clearly defined defence would strengthen national security. "My fear is that if we don't do something, people like Assange will keep using this public interest defence and we will leave it up to the courts to decide what it is," he said.

The amendment has been drafted with help from legal and political experts to place the burden on the leaker to establish the public interest behind their disclosure.

It would also prevent someone acting for personal gain rather than good faith and legislate for the "manner" of the leak, so "unreasonable" data dumps would not be protected.

Ministers have said they will consider it but have not yet committed to it.



JOSEPH WALSHE/SWNS

Illogical Vulcan
A passer-by has a close encounter with a Vulcan bomber that accidentally veered from the runway at Wellesbourne Mountford airfield in Warwickshire. The aircraft, which is not airworthy, was being moved but unexpectedly remained at full power "for two seconds longer than intended" before managing to stop just short of a hedge backing on to a nearby road.

People smugglers boast that Channel crossings are 'safe' because they call UK police

By **Charles Hymas**

PEOPLE-smuggling gangs are telling migrants that they call UK police before they set off to ensure they get picked up in the Channel.

In social media posts to promote their illegal services, the gangs claim the cross-Channel journeys will be "safe" because of the advance notice they give to UK law enforcement as soon as their migrant boats are in the water. The gangs know that once the migrant boats are in the sea, French naval vessels will not attempt to turn them back because of the risk to life if they were to capsize in doing so.

UK officials acknowledged the smugglers were also exploiting the use of Navy, Border Force and Coastguard ships, boats and drones that aim to ensure that no one reaches the UK without being detected or picked up.

However, Government sources condemned the smugglers' "dangerous" tactics and "spurious" attempts to entice migrants to make the potentially deadly journey across the Channel. "It doesn't make it any safer," said a source.

Nearly 4,700 migrants have already crossed the Channel this month, bringing the total so far this year to 29,716, compared to 28,526 for the whole of 2021 and 8,400 in 2020. Albanians make up 60 per cent of the arrivals.

The people smugglers' advert on TikTok shows a picture of a dinghy crammed full of migrants approaching a Border Force patrol boat.

Overlaid on the image, in Albanian, are the words: "Secure crossing on boats from Dunkirk to Dover every weekend. Our journey is safe.

"We notify the UK police with the live location at the moment when you start the journey. No danger at all."

Lucy Moreton, professional officer for the ISU Border Force union, said that there were occasional cases of anonymous calls to law-enforcement agencies, notifying them of boats or phone calls from the migrants themselves mid-Channel seeking rescue.

But she said the gangs were also exploiting the efforts being made by the UK and French to prevent a repeat of the incident last November when 27 migrants died after their boat capsized.

"We have been a victim of our own success in the past year. There's been very few fatalities that we know of because of the technology and intelligence that we now have to detect and track the boats," Ms Moreton said.

"As soon as they are beyond the point where the French can stop them, the French tell us they are there and we overfly the sea with drones."

In an attempt to stem the surge in Albanians, the country's parliament approved a memorandum with the UK to share criminal and biometric data.



Poorly insulated older properties are given the cold shoulder

By **Alexa Phillips**
PERSONAL FINANCE REPORTER

OLDER homes are taking longer to sell and failing to achieve the asking price, as buyers look to purchase newer and better insulated properties.

Homeowners are legally obliged to have an energy performance certificate when they sell or let their houses, which rates its energy efficiency from A, the highest score, to G, the lowest.

Average sales prices of properties with a G rating have plummeted in the past year, according to consultancy TwentyCi. These homes sold for an average of £323,749 this year, compared with £340,065 last year.

The drop of £16,316, or 5 per cent, was much steeper than for any other energy rating. Experts said increased focus on energy efficiency from buyers, as household bills have risen rapidly, meant poorly rated homes risked becoming "stranded" from the rest of the market. Millions of Victorian homes and other older properties have the lowest ratings and can be difficult and expensive to upgrade.

The study found properties with an A rating commanded £47,033 more than last year. The best insulated homes sold for £458,074, an 11 per cent increase on last year's figure of £411,041.

G-rated homes sold for £134,325 less this year than A-rated homes.

Homes with lower ratings also took longer to sell. Those with a G rating took the longest, at an average of 26.7 days, while F-rated properties took 25.7 days. Meanwhile, properties with an A rating are sold fastest, in 22.1 days.

F-rated homes achieved the lowest proportion of the asking price, at 94.9 per cent. The figure for A-rated properties is 97.7 per cent, and for B-rated properties it was 97.4 per cent.

On a £500,000 home, the difference between homes with A and F ratings amounts to £14,000. Donna Rourke, of estate agents Strutt and Parker, said that as properties with a higher EPC sold for larger sums, lower-rated homes risked being left behind.

"Are those going to be stranded assets? Yes and no. There's always going to be a market for those properties, but what we're seeing is stricter lending rules coming in as the banks have their own net zero targets," she said.

Four cups of tea a day reduce risk of diabetes

Keeping the brews coming could cut your chance of developing the disease by a fifth, new research finds

By **Laura Donnelly** HEALTH EDITOR

IT has long been thought that the answer to many of life's problems is a good cup of tea. Now a major study has found four cups a day could also sharply reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

The research on more than a million people found that plenty of tea cuts the risk of the condition by almost one fifth.

Scientists say the findings, which were presented at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes annual meeting in Stockholm, are "exciting", and show how simple steps can protect our health. Around 5 million people in the UK have diabetes, with nine in 10 cases type two.

The systematic review and meta-analysis of 19 cohort studies examined the impact of tea-drinking in eight countries, with black, green and Oolong varieties under examination.

Regardless of the type consumed, four cups a day was linked to a 17 per cent lower risk of developing type two diabetes over a decade.

Oolong tea is a traditional Chinese tea made from the same plant used to make green and black teas. The differences in the tea relate to how it is processed.

Green tea is not allowed to oxidise much, while black tea – the most common in the UK – is allowed to oxidise until it turns black, and Oolong tea is partially oxidised.

The research, led by scientists from China, did not examine any impact from adding milk to tea. However, separate research suggests moderate amounts of dairy can also protect against diabetes.

It has long been known tea may be beneficial for health because of the anti-oxidants, anti-inflammatory and anti-carcinogenic compounds it contains.

But the link with diabetes has been less clear, with previous studies proving inconsistent. The new research is observational, meaning it could not prove that the tea was the cause of the lower risk. But the size of the study has added to confidence that a regular cup could help to cut the risk of diabetes.

Lead author Xiaying Li, from Wuhan University of Science and Technology, said: "Our results are exciting because they suggest that people can do something as simple as drinking four cups of tea a day to potentially lessen their risk of developing type 2 diabetes."

Those who drank between one and three cups of tea a day lowered their risk of diabetes by just 4 per cent.

Scientists said the results were the same regardless of the type of tea, whether drinkers were male or female, or where they lived, suggesting it may be the amount consumed, rather than any other factor, that plays a major role.

"While more research needs to be done to determine the exact dosage and mechanisms ... our findings suggest that drinking tea is beneficial in reducing the risk, but only at high doses (at least four cups a day)," said Li.

17pc

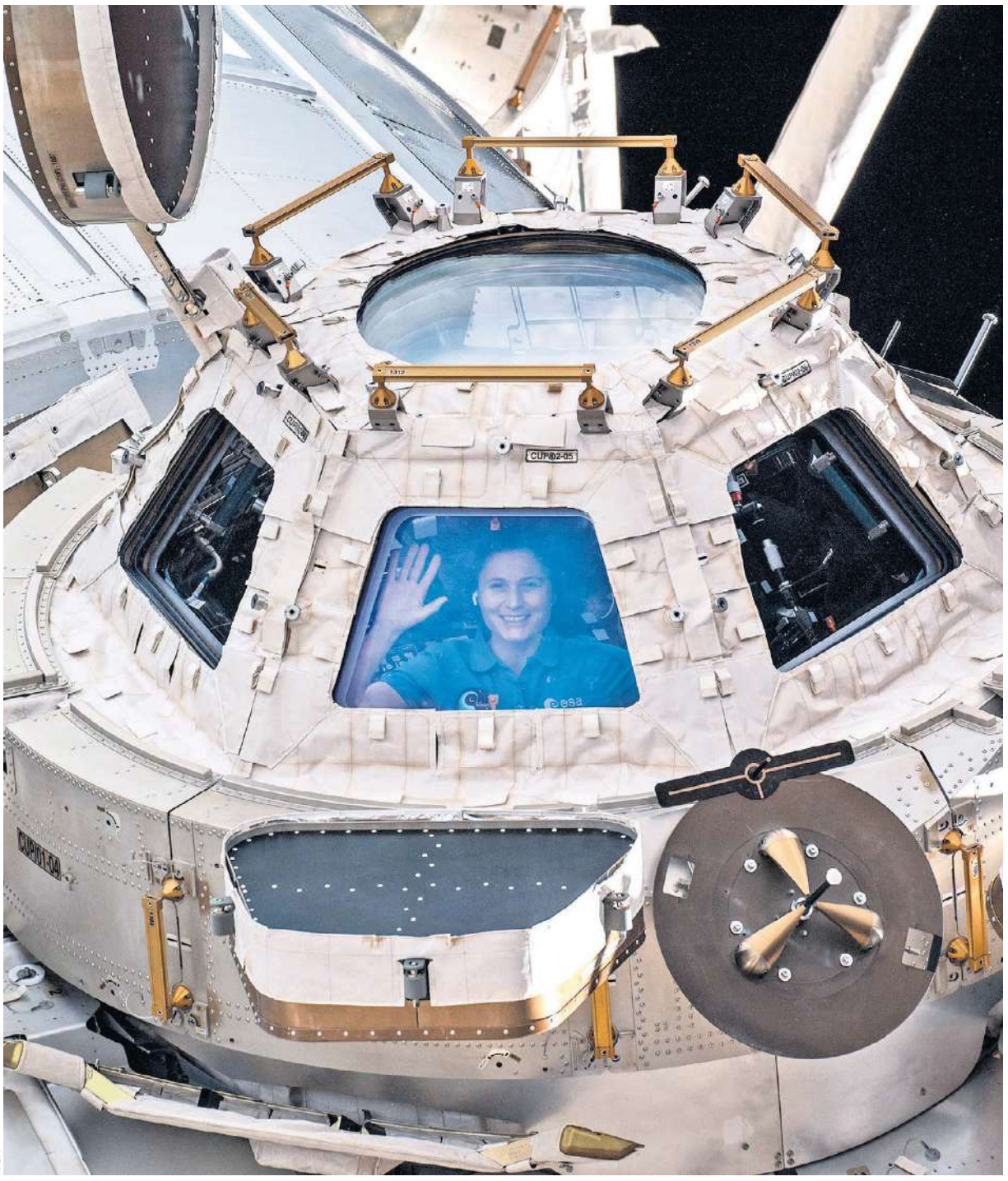
The reduction in the incidence of diabetes among people in the study who drank four or more cups of tea a day

She added: "It is possible particular components in tea, such as polyphenols, may reduce blood glucose levels, but a sufficient amount of these compounds may be needed to be effective."

Other experts said it was possible that any apparent health gain from drinking tea actually occured because people drank it instead of less healthy options.

Prof Naveed Sattar, professor of metabolic medicine at Glasgow University, said: "It could be that people who drink more tea avoid, or less often drink, more harmful sugary drinks or equivalent or that they have other health behaviours that leads them to have lower risks.

"There is no good trial evidence that the chemicals in tea prevent diabetes, so I suspect it's more about tea being healthier (less calorific) than many alternative drinks or tea drinkers leading healthier lives more generally."



NASA

Windows upgrade European Space Agency astronaut and flight engineer Samantha Cristoforetti is pictured looking out from a window on the cupola, the International Space Station's observatory module, or "window to the world".

Solar power beamed from space could avert another energy crisis

By **Sarah Knapton** SCIENCE EDITOR

SOLAR power could be beamed from space wirelessly, under plans to find a long-term solution to Britain's energy crisis.

At the end of this month, Airbus will host a technology showcase to demonstrate that solar energy can be transported over a distance of around 130ft.

The company is already working alongside the British government and National Grid as part of the UK Space Energy initiative (SEI), which launched last year to explore the possibility of space-based power.

It is hoped the demonstration will persuade governments to invest in the initiative, which could open up a new era of green power with giant solar farms built in space and energy transmitted directly down to Earth.

Dr Paul Bate, head of the UK Space Agency told *The Sunday Telegraph* that space-based solar power could help Britain build a secure energy supply that did not rely on volatile states such as Russia.

"On energy security, it's only a matter of time before we harness the power of the sun," he said. "With space-based solar power we already have expertise in the UK, and we already have a demonstrator in space, in the International Space Station (ISS), showing how we can harness a consistent baseload of energy which is safe and renewable.

"So some things we can already do and for the other things it's about long-term investment over the next 10, 20 and 30 years. We have space-based solar power experience in Britain and other countries are now getting involved, so I do think it's something Britain will be benefiting from."

Solar-based energy has been on the drawing board since the 1970s but is now being taken seriously, as countries scramble to find new reliable power sources amid ongoing tensions over Russia's gas pipelines and the desire to achieve net zero.

Recent advances in space launch technology means that it is finally cost-effective to transport panels into space.

A report published last month by engineering consultancy Frazer Nash and London Economics found that a space-based solar power station could be online by 2040 or earlier.

Lefties looking for a dog are better off with a southpaw

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

LEFT-handed people should adopt left-pawed dogs because they will get on better and have a stronger relationship, scientists believe.

Dogs are naturally left- or right-pawed but a study has found the animals override their natural instinct to mimic their owner's favourite hand.

Scientists from the University of Lincoln recruited 62 dogs and asked owners to see if their dog was right or left paw dominant by the so-called "paw" and "reach" tests.

The former is to ask for the dog's paw numerous times and see which one is most willingly given and the other is to hide something just out of reach to see which paw is used to retrieve it.

"It was found that left-handed owners were more likely to own a dog with a left paw bias, and right-handed owners were more likely to own a dog with a right paw bias," the researchers write in the journal *Animal Cognition*. "Owner handedness influences paw preference, and should be considered when pairing dogs to owners, especially in assistance work."

Kimberley Charlton, lead author, said a dog was 80 per cent more likely to be left pawed if its owner is left handed.

"Dogs with left-handed owners were significantly more likely to have a left paw bias. This was the same for right-handed owners," she said.

But the reason remains unknown, and is a prime avenue for research.

"Is it habit? Is it from observing? Does a preference build from being positively reinforced over the years? What do the dogs gain?" Ms Charlton said.

She said dogs and people should be "matched" based on paw preferences. "The characteristics that come with being left or right handed/pawed may benefit dogs and their owners by functioning the same way."

'Owner handedness should be considered when pairing dogs to owners, particularly in assistance work'

"For example, the left hemisphere is used in discrimination between previously encountered objects. Therefore right handed/pawed owners and dogs could be better at sports like agility.

"For assistance dogs, if they are trained to be right pawed but the new owner is left handed, it might cause difficulty when walking as the dog would be trained to walk on one side but the person may be more steady with the animal on their other side."



LONGLEAT/BNPS

Brace of cubs Ten-week-old red panda cubs make their public debut in the sunshine at Longleat in Wiltshire. The as-yet-unnamed siblings are the result of the park's breeding programme for the endangered species.

Kew puts down roots to eat when potato has had its chips

By **Olivia Rudgard**
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WITH the potato under threat from climate change, Kew Gardens experts are working on alternatives to replace it as a staple food.

Kew horticulturists have ditched main-crop potatoes in their kitchen garden and are growing dahlias, oca and campanula for their edible roots.

Experts at the botanical gardens have raised concerns about the world's reliance on just a handful of potato varieties that are vulnerable to climate change and disease.

Helena Dove, a botanical horticulturalist who runs its newly reopened kitchen garden, said potatoes were too vulnerable to blight.

A Met Office study found that in a high-warming climate change scenario, blight could rise by 70 per cent in eastern Scotland and 20 to 30 per cent in eastern England over the next 50 years.

"We are looking at whether there are other starchy root crops that we could grow that would be a starch for the winter that we could store," Ms Dove said.

"We didn't learn from the Irish potato famine, and we're still relying on one or two crops, so we just need to find out if there are alternatives."

The plants are thriving in the garden, she said, adding: "I've answered the question, can we grow them? The next question is are they edible? The third question is, can we store them?"

Oca, which originates in South America and is also popular in New Zealand, has long been grown in Europe as a companion plant to the potato.

It tastes similar to a potato but has a more lemony flavour, which becomes richer and nuttier when cooked.

Jícama is a Mexican vine vegetable with an edible root, while yacón, native to the Andes, is prized for its medical benefits, because it contains a type of sugar that the body cannot digest, making it valuable to people with diabetes.

'We didn't learn from the Irish potato famine and we are still relying on one or two crops'

Other alternatives include dahlias and the rampion bellflower, *Campanula rapunculus*, which has edible leaves and roots which can be eaten raw.

Gardeners have been working with Kew chefs to come up with recipes.

One devised by Martin Allen Morales, a Peruvian chef and author, and published in *The Kew Gardens Cookbook* suggests poached oca with a cashew and chipotle sauce.

All will soon be Ukraine, say troops as they breach front line

Kremlin's soldiers will not hold defensive positions along key Oskil river for much longer, say analysts

By **James Kilner**

UKRAINIAN soldiers have broken through Russia's front line along the Oskil river, exposing an important supply route and large areas of territory that the Kremlin has promised to defend.

Fighting has focused on Kupiansk since Russian forces fled a surprise Ukrainian offensive around Kharkiv in north-east Ukraine last week but military bloggers from both sides have said that Russia's defence has crumbled once again.

"Kupiansk has surrendered. The enemy is on the left bank of the Oskil," the pro-Russian military blogger Vladlen Tatarsky told his 450,000 subscribers last night.



GETTY

Vladimir Putin has been on the back foot at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan, where he met China's president Xi Jinping

Western commentators confirmed the development. James Rushton, a British military analyst based in Ukraine, said Russian forces would not be able to hold their defensive line along the Oskil for much longer.

"The Ukrainians have already crossed it," he said.

"Considering they now control all of Kupiansk, half of the city is on the eastern bank, any defensive line the Russians might try to form along the river is already very vulnerable."

Russian forces fled across the Oskil River, which runs north-south from central Russia into Ukraine, after a surprise Ukrainian offensive recaptured roughly 2,500 square miles of territory, an area nearly equal to the size of Devon.

Kupiansk and Izyum are the largest and most valuable towns captured by the Ukrainian military.

Both were heavily fought over in the opening weeks of the war and the Russian army had used them as logistics bases for supplying its forces in Donbas.

The British Ministry of Defence said that a Ukrainian breach of the Russian front line along the Oskil would humiliate the Kremlin, which has made capturing and then defending Luhansk a priority, and threaten its final logistics hub to Donbas from the Russian city of Belgorod.

"This line sits along the border of Luhansk Oblast, part of the Donbas, which Russia aims to 'liberate' as one of its immediate war aims," it said.

"Any substantial loss of territory in Luhansk will unambiguously undermine Russia's strategy."

It added that "Russia will likely attempt a stubborn defence of this area, but it is unclear whether Russia's front-line forces have sufficient reserves or adequate morale to withstand another concerted Ukrainian assault."

The Oskil meanders south through fertile farmland in Ukraine before joining the Seversky Donets River which flows into Donbas. It lies 75 miles east of Kharkiv and 110 miles to the north-west of the city of Luhansk which pro-Russia rebels have controlled since an uprising in 2014 against the central government in Kyiv.

'Any substantial loss of territory in Luhansk will unambiguously undermine Russia's strategy'

The US-based Institute for the Study of War also confirmed that Ukrainian forces had broken through Russia's north-eastern front line.

"Russian forces are likely too weak to prevent further Ukrainian advances along the entire Oskil River," it said.

A video reportedly shot from a Ukrainian tank and uploaded onto Twitter was geolocated to Kupiansk on the east bank of the Oskil.

It showed the smashed-up and destroyed city. On the left of the video footage lie the wrecks of two smouldering and seemingly abandoned Russian tanks, one painted with the letter Z which has become a Russian pro-war symbol.

Another video of a Ukrainian soldier celebrating the destruction of a Russian armoured personnel carrier has also been geolocated to the east bank of the Oskil River.

"All will soon be Ukraine," the soldier says in the video. Russian forces have taken huge losses since the Kremlin ordered the invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24.

The Pentagon has estimated that the Russian army has sustained at least 75,000 dead or injured, far greater than the Soviet Union's losses in a decade of fighting in Afghanistan in the 1980s.



ANASTASIIA VLASOVA/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK; JUAN BARRETO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Russian Jews scared to voice their fears over axe of emigration agency

Moscow appears to consider retaliation over Israel's public stance on invasion of Ukraine

By **James Rothwell**
in Rishon LeZion

AT A park in the Israeli suburb of Rishon LeZion (dubbed "Little Moscow"), the Russians are playing chess, arguing over card games and sunning themselves on benches.

However, virtually no one is willing to speak out about one of the biggest crises in Israel-Russia relations in decades: the looming closure of a crucial agency which helps Russian Jews emigrate to Israel.

"I only speak Russian," said one man, wearing a chunky watch and gold chain, as he turned his back on

'All I know is that they are threatening to stop people from coming to Israel'

The Sunday Telegraph. Another shook his head and briskly walked away when approached for an interview.

A third seemed too fascinated by his hand of cards to respond when approached.

This week a Russian court will rule on whether to close down the Jewish Agency for Israel, which encourages and supports emigration from Russia to Israel.

Officials have accused the agency of improperly storing records of Russian citizens. But it is widely suspected that the court case is retaliation for Israel taking a public stance against Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Yair Lapid, the prime minister of Israel, condemned the war in April and, in his previous role as foreign minister, accused Russia of committing war crimes.

Israeli media reports say there are also concerns that the closure of the agency could mark a return to the

Fake call-up letters sent out as Kremlin struggles for recruits

By **James Kilner**

A RUSSIAN army recruitment centre is trying to trick men into front-line military service in Ukraine, US analysts have reported.

The Institute for the Study of War said the military commissar in Vladivostok had sent deliberately misleading letters to men between the ages of 23 and 65 with military experience.

"The Russian recruiters likely intend the letters to confuse recipients into thinking they have been formally and legally conscripted," it said. "The letters are in fact only invitations to discuss volunteering."

The Russian army has suffered 75,000 dead or injured and experts say Vladimir Putin now needs thousands more soldiers.

The debate in Russia over whether to fully mobilise has heightened since its army was routed around Kharkiv.

Mr Putin wants to avoid a full mobilisation because he does not want to risk triggering unrest. Instead, he has ordered the regions to produce battalions of volunteers, but take-up has been slow, despite large signing-on bonuses.

The Kremlin is so desperate for volunteers it ordered recruitment drives in St Petersburg and Moscow, its two political centres that it had hoped to spare.

It has also ordered its Wagner mercenary group to increase recruitment from prisons. The deal for prisoners is simple. If they survive six months in Ukraine, they will be pardoned for their crimes – including even murder.

But for Russia's vocal hawks, only full mobilisation will do. "We don't have a choice," said Alexander Dungin in a new essay on his nationalist website tsargrad.tv. "(We must) transfer the country to a military footing in politics, economics, culture and the information sphere."

A car bomb last month killed Mr Dungin's daughter, pro-war journalist Darya Dungina. He is a leading member of a group of arch-nationalists who promote an aggressive Russian foreign policy and the creation of a large Eurasian hegemony ruled by the Kremlin.



VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

National pride The coffin of Oleksandr Shapoval, 47, a ballet dancer who was killed by Russian troops, is carried in Kyiv.



Numbers on scraps of paper only clue to loved ones at mass burial site

Dispatch



By **Sergio Olmos** *and* **Oleksandr Solodkiy** *in Izyum*

When Volodymyr Kolesnyk went deep into the forest outside Izyum in search of his family's final resting place yesterday, he had nothing but a scrap of paper with a list of numbers given to him by occupying Russian forces: 199, 164 and 174.

Mr Kolesnyk lost his cousin Yuri Yakovenko, Mr Yakovenko's wife Svitlana and mother Natalya in early March. Each of those numbers represented one of their bodies.

Moscow blamed Ukrainian air strikes, but he said that was obviously untrue as Kyiv's forces were operating in the area at the time and were being pummelled by the Russian army.

As next of kin, the Russian soldiers gave Mr Kolesnyk an option – pay for a proper burial plot or the bodies would be dumped in crudely numbered graves in the pine forest with the war's other countless victims.

"They told us If you want to bury them properly the price was 7,000 Ukrainian Hryvnias (£166), but we didn't have that money at the time," Mr Kolesnyk told *The Sunday Telegraph* – one of only a few Western media outlets to gain access to the newly recaptured eastern city.

"They didn't give me their death certificates when I asked them, just gave me numbers of the graves. I visited today for the first time, because I was afraid to go there [when the Russians were here] as I heard there were mines," said Mr Kolesnyk from his home yesterday, as gunfire and the thud of explosions were heard close by.

Mr Kolesnyk made the trip to replace the numbers with names, giving his relatives the respect they had been denied in death.

Ukraine has recovered a swathe of territory in the east in a lightning counter-offensive, freeing towns from Russian forces, but uncovering a grim legacy of occupation.

The forest has become a sea of white crosses, each one marked with a number correlating to a victim.

Officials have so far counted 450 hastily dug graves.



Ukrainian troops in liberated Izyum, above. Soldiers hitch a ride in the trunk of a car, left

"Russia leaves only death and suffering. Murderers. Torturers," said Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, of the scenes in Izyum. Some of the exhumed remains, he said, included children and people who were likely tortured before dying.

Mr Zelensky posted a photograph of the exhumation alongside the words: "The whole world should see this. A world in which there should be no cruelty and terrorism. But all this is there. And its name is Russia."

Oleg Synegubov, head of Kharkiv regional administration, said: "There are several bodies with their hands tied behind their backs, and one person is buried with a rope around his neck. Among the bodies that were exhumed today, 99 per cent showed signs of violent death."

'We lived during occupation like in prison. I had no doubt Ukrainian fighters would come back for us'

Many of the bodies being pulled out of the ground when *The Sunday Telegraph* visited were so badly decomposed that it was not possible to tell if there were signs of torture from afar. The *Telegraph* was not able to independently verify those details and only saw a body with their hands behind their backs, but could not confirm if they had been tied. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' office said on Friday it wanted to send a team to Izyum to verify Ukrainian allegations of massacres.

The newly liberated and shellshocked residents of Izyum have begun describing the six months they lived under Russian occupation, which was like being "in prison".

Anton Chernyshov, 31, who was briefly detained by Russian troops, showed *The Telegraph* the spot where he stood on the top of the mountain to get one bar of phone signal.

The Russians only allowed them access to Moscow-approved radio and newspapers, and it was the only word they received that Putin's offensive was stalling.

The people of Izyum bear the scars of the brutal battle here. Mr Kolesnyk says several people in his neighbourhood were detained and tortured, suspected of collaborating with the Ukrainian military.

"We lived during the occupation like in prison. I avoided any contact with them, because I heard from people from the street about torture, I saw my acquaintances with broken noses, bruises on their hands.

"I asked them, 'What happened guys?' And they said I was 'na pidvali'," he said, using a common slang term to describe a place of torture and interrogation in the occupied areas.

But even during the darkest days, those in the city clung onto hope.

"I had no doubt that Ukrainian fighters would come back for us," added Mr Kolesnyk. "Never."

grim Soviet era, when Jewish emigration was restricted and Russian Jews were forced to endure increased levels of anti-Semitism.

In Rishon LeZion, the reluctance to speak out could stem from fear that their relatives in Moscow could face reprisals from the Russian government, even if they were to speak on condition of anonymity.

The Telegraph did manage to speak to one Russian woman, who initially denied she was of Russian origin but then spoke anonymously.

"People are afraid to talk about this," she said.

On the wider issue of the treatment of Jews in Russia since the invasion, she said: "In Moscow they [Russian Jews] feel like nothing is happening, but for people in St Petersburg it's a more dangerous situation.

"Basically, the men are afraid they will be taken into the army."

Outside one supermarket, a Russian man said: "All I know is that they are threatening to stop people from coming to Israel."

At a nearby sports shop, a Russian worker said he was unaware that the Jewish Agency in Russia could be closed down. He went on to claim that Russians in Israel were facing discrimination, and that some Russian-Israeli sportsmen were removing Russian brands and team names from their training gear to prevent being accosted over the war in Ukraine.

'If Russia wants to stop the brain drain, there is a very simple way to do it: stop the war immediately'

The former chief Rabbi of Moscow, who fled after facing intense pressure to support Mr Putin's war, has said that the invasion of Ukraine and surrounding policies has led to an increase in Jews fleeing Russia. "What the Jewish Agency failed to do in the area of encouraging the aliyah [emigration] of members of the Jewish community, the Russian government succeeded in doing in the policy it dictated during the war in Ukraine," said Pinchas Goldschmidt during a speech in July.

"If Russia wants to stop the brain drain and the fleeing of its finest citizens abroad, there is a very simple way to do it: stop the war immediately," he added.

Israeli officials are said to be hopeful that a compromise can be found to avoid the agency's closure. According to *The Times of Israel*, the government suspects the court case is part of a "broader crackdown on Russian civil society" rather than an isolated campaign against Israel.

The Telegraph approached the Jewish Agency for comment but did not immediately receive a response.

Kremlin 'no longer top dog' for arms sales to south-east Asia after PR disaster of war

By **Nicola Smith** ASIA CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine may have sounded the death knell for its own arms sales to Asia, once one of its biggest weapons export markets.

Tighter sanctions and reputational damage over the quality of Russian weaponry are accelerating a downward spiral in defence sales to Asian nations, say analysts.

Last month, the Philippines said it had scrapped a $227.7 million (£197 million) deal for 16 Russian Mi-17 helicopters over fears it would face Western sanctions, following Indonesia, which abandoned plans to buy 11 Sukhoi Su-35 Flanker-E fighter aircraft last year. The Philippines is considering an offer from the US to provide its own heavy-lift helicopters, instead.

Last week reports suggested Vietnam – Russia's biggest arms customer in south-east Asia – may further reduce ties amid a long-term drop-off in sales.

"The days of Russia being top dog in south-east Asia are over. I think they were over even before the war, and I don't think they'll ever recover," said Dr Ian Storey, at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

Concerns about sanctions had been compounded by a "public relations disaster" over images of wrecked and abandoned military vehicles in Ukraine that "call into question the quality and reliability of Russian-manufactured military hardware," he said.

$10.8bn

The predicted revenue from Russia's weapons sales this year, around a quarter lower than last year

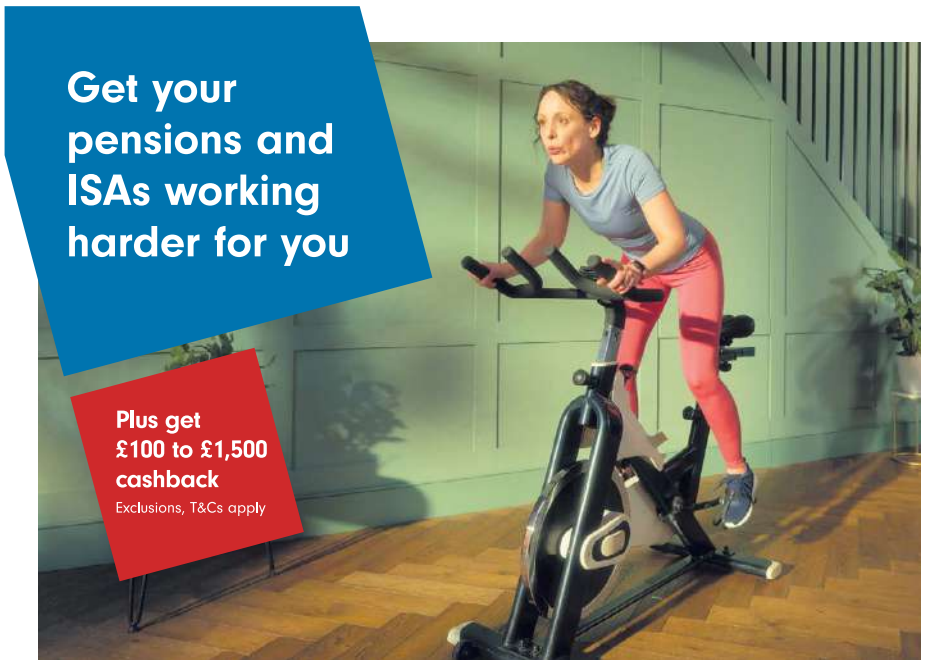
The reputation of Russian manufactured jets – Moscow's most lucrative defence export to Asia – took a hit when one of its most advanced fighters, a fourth-generation-plus Su-35, was shot down by an anti-aircraft missile over Ukraine in April.

Last month, the head of Russia's weapons export branch predicted revenue in 2022 was likely to total about $10.8 billion, roughly 26 per cent lower than in 2021, despite pledges by Vladimir Putin, the president, to expand military co-operation with countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

And arms sales to Asia, particularly Vietnam and India, had already nosedived since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, owing to sanctions and concerns about Moscow's ability to fulfil orders, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

"The [current] war has accelerated those trends," said Dr Storey.

For its part, the Russian defence industry has also been left with a dilemma over whether to replace its own equipment losses on the battlefield or to generate foreign currency earnings through defence exports.



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Ayatollahs attack 'illegal' morality police

Death of Iranian woman beaten for wearing hijab wrongly prompts protests and anger from clerics

By **Ahmed Vahdat**

TWO of Iran's senior ayatollahs have said its feared morality police is illegal and un-Islamic, as violent protests broke out against the Supreme Leader over the death of a woman beaten for not wearing her hijab properly.

The force, known as Gashteh Ershad ("guiding vigilantes"), is "not only an illegal and anti-Islamic body, but also illogical", said Ayatollah Bayat Zanjani yesterday. "No part of our country's laws assigns any mission or responsibility to this vigilante force," he added, accusing it of committing "repression and immoral acts".

Another ayatollah, Mohaqeq Damad, said: "The establishment of the force for promotion of virtues and prevention of vice is in fact meant to monitor the rulers' actions, not to crack down on the citizens' freedoms and is a deviation from Islamic teachings."

A reformist group said the police force should now be abolished.

"The national tragedy of the horrific death of Mahsa Amini is so great that nothing but the complete scrapping of the Gashte Ershad will do," said the Front of Iranian Reformists yesterday.

The rare criticism comes as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made his first public appearance in weeks yesterday amid reports he was "gravely ill". Pictures showed him looking frail and wearing a face mask as he attended a religious ceremony, but he spoke in a steady voice as he told students to be patient when facing hard times.



Mahsa Amini went into a coma and later died after being arrested

He did not mention Ms Amini, 22, whose death on Friday, apparently at the hands of the morality police, went viral as people tweeted with the hashtag "murder patrol" and shared old videos of Mr Khamenei saying women dressed immodestly should be punished.

Ms Amini fell into a coma and later died after reportedly being arrested in Tehran for wearing her hijab in such a way that she was showing some hair.

Activists say she was beaten and died of a brain haemorrhage, but the police say she suffered a heart attack. Her mother has rejected that as "a lie to cover up killing my innocent angel".

Wearing a headscarf is compulsory; those without one risk being imprisoned for up to two months and fined.

Ms Amini's body was returned to her hometown of Saghez in the restive Kurdish region of Iran, where thousands attended her burial yesterday.

Videos showed thousands of people walking behind her coffin and shouting "death to the dictator" and "shame on our supreme leader" in reference to Mr Khamenei. Pictures of them tearing down posters of Mr Khamenei spread on social media.

Security forces fired tear gas into the protesting crowds, with at least one person reportedly suffering head injuries.

'No part of our country's laws assigns any mission to this vigilante force'

A note on Ms Amini's grave read: "You have not died; you live on as a symbol for our nation."

Many Iranians blame Mr Khamenei for her death because the idea of launching the morality force has long been associated with his draconian stance on the role of women in society.

In many of his speeches the Supreme Leader has praised the vigilante force's actions and encouraged them to "do whatever you see fit to uphold the moral values of our system in respect of women".

"This is the same man who spoke for hours condemning the death of George Floyd in America, but has not said one word about the crime that has happened on his watch," said women rights activist Fatemeh Sepehri.



MAHESH KUMAR A/AP

Fine feather A performer in an elaborate peacock-plumed headdress takes part in celebrations in the Indian city of Hyderabad to mark its "liberation day". It commemorates Sept 17 1948, when the Indian army marched into the then "princely state" to end the rule of the nizams and make it part of India.

Dragon drone takes Taiwan harassment to new heights

By **Nicola Smith**
ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE "Soaring Dragon", a high-altitude unmanned aerial vehicle, became the latest Chinese drone to threaten Taiwan's airspace this week, in a sign of drones' growing importance in the brewing conflict in east Asia.

The Guizhou WZ-7, which carries out aerial reconnaissance and provides targeting data for anti-ship ballistic missiles, flew its mission in Taiwan's south-west Air Defence Identification Zone on Thursday.

The aggressive move came days after Chinese military drones breached the median line of the Taiwan Strait for the first time as Beijing ramps up pressure tactics on the democratic island it has promised to seize.

In recent weeks, drones have taken an increasingly high-profile role in the People's Liberation Army's "grey zone" harassment campaign of the island of 23.5 million, joining daily flights from warplanes and cyber attacks intended to sow fear of an invasion among the Taiwanese public.

The uptick in the use of UAVs suggested China was rehearsing for future missions, Ben Lewis, a US-based defence analyst tracking Chinese military activities in the Taiwan Strait, said.

"Undoubtedly, UAVs have become and will continue to be a focal element of PLA operations, and so their usage needs to be trained as much as any platform.

"This moment is yet another example of the PLA's growing capabilities, and their willingness to use them," he said.

Taiwan has long had its own indigenous UAV programme but has pledged to strengthen its drone and anti-drone capabilities since seeing Ukraine's success with military hardware against Russia. President Tsai Ing-wen has inaugurated a government-run drone R&D facility in response to the unpredictable geopolitical climate.

Trudeau ruining lives with 'Justin-flation', says populist challenger

By **Rozina Sabur** WASHINGTON EDITOR

CANADA's new populist Tory leader claimed Justin Trudeau's government "ruins the lives of its citizens" as he began his campaign to boot the long-serving prime minister out of office.

Pierre Poilievre, 43, described the country's high inflation as "Justin-flation" in an attack on public spending under the prime minister as he attempts to become his main challenger.

It was this combative style that propelled him to a landslide victory last Saturday in the Canadian Conservative Party's leadership election.

Mr Poilievre's crushing defeat of his centrist rival, Jean Charest, in a 68 per cent to 16 per cent vote, has been taken as a sign of a shift in the country's political landscape.

Mr Trudeau's ruling Liberal Party, long seen as a beacon of progressive politics, has stood in contrast to the bruising political discourse in the US.

But after seven years in power, his government has been hit by political scandals, a housing crisis, high living costs and voter fatigue. Mr Trudeau's approval rating stands at just 36 per cent, with 56 per cent of Canadians disapproving of him, according to the Angus Reid Institute. Mr Poilievre's message has resonated with angry voters, waging a social media-fuelled grievance campaign that has painted Mr Trudeau, 50, as a member of an out-of-touch elite and the mainstream media as a Left-wing, globalist cabal.



Pierre Poilievre, the new firebrand Conservative Party leader, has promised to champion 'anti-wokeism'

He has transfixed his Right-wing base with his fiery exchanges, attacking Mr Trudeau's vaccine mandates and economic management while promising to champion "anti-wokeism" and make Canada the "freest nation on earth".

Conservative strategists say that Mr Poilievre may have the skills to defeat Mr Trudeau in the next election. Dan Robertson, the chief strategist to Mr Poilievre's predecessor Erin O'Toole, said he was "very optimistic" about his chances.

"It's going to be an epic campaign of unprecedented ferocity. Both Trudeau and Poilievre are very combative and they play hard," he said.

Mr Trudeau does not have to go to the polls until October 2025, but Mr Robertson believes he may call it earlier.

Like Donald Trump in the US, Mr Poilievre has won support from people who felt disengaged from politics. His campaign claims it signed up a record-breaking 311,958 party members.

Like Mr Trump, Mr Poilievre has drawn standing-room-only crowds at campaign rallies, previously unseen in Canadian party leadership races. However, he is pro-immigration, against new abortion restrictions and has recanted on his earlier opposition to gay marriage.

Mr Poilievre was elected to parliament aged just 25 and served in the last Conservative government's cabinet.

Personal

Text for the day

I HAVE fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4.7

Messages

GRATEFUL THANKS TO St Jude for prayers answered. JD.
Online ref: 612373

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Republican wives to the fore to ease abortion backlash

By **Nick Allen** *in Washington and* **Josie Ensor** *in New York*

REPUBLICAN candidates suffering a backlash over the overturning of Roe v Wade are calling in their wives in an attempt to rescue hopes of a "red wave" in November's midterm elections.

Party strategists have described how their candidates in crucial Senate races – all of them men – are "getting killed" among suburban female voters after the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn the ruling, which had enshrined a national right to abortion.

In Arizona, a key Republican target, polling showed the party's Senate candidate Blake Masters trailing by 22 points with female voters after the ruling by the Supreme Court, which is dominated by Republican-appointed justices.

Mr Masters has responded by using the first television advert of his campaign to have his wife Catherine address the electorate.

He also removed from his website a statement that he was "100 per cent pro-life" and reversed his position on a sweeping national abortion ban.

Similar examples could be seen in Colorado, Ohio and Nevada, where the wife of Adam Laxalt reassures voters in an advert that he is a "good man".

Since the Supreme Court ruling, on June 24, Democrats have become clear favourites to cling on to control of the Senate, and increased their chance of maintaining a slim majority in the House of Representatives. A recent *Wall Street Journal* poll showed that, when Americans were asked what issue was most likely to make them vote on Nov 8, the Roe v Wade decision was top.

More than 75 per cent of those who chose the abortion ruling as the driving issue were Democrats.

One Republican strategist said that, because of the Roe v Wade decision, the midterms "look and feel significantly different than six months ago".

In Pennsylvania, where a tight race between TV doctor Mehmet Oz, for the Republicans, and Democrat John Fetterman could ultimately decide the balance of the Senate, there has been a surge in women registering to vote.

The non-partisan election watchdog group Committee of Seventy told *The Sunday Telegraph* 65,000 new people had registered since the end of June.

Of those, two thirds were women, and 55 per cent were under the age of 25. One woman to in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, said she had been a registered Independent voter until the Roe v Wade decision.

Kathy, 31, who declined to give her second name, re-registered as a Democrat last month, and said some of her female friends had too.

She said: "I don't think it's right for politicians to make those sorts of decisions about our bodies. What is at stake is too important to sit on the fence."



LUKAS BARTH/REUTERS

Leder of the pack Visitors are in a hurry to get their hands on a stein on the opening day of the 187th Oktoberfest in Munich.

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
ESTABLISHED 1961

The eyes of the world are on Britain

The public's remarkable reaction to the death of Elizabeth II is a corrective to the myth of British decline, to the fantasy that we are irreconcilably divided, exhausted and irrelevant. No one could fairly conclude that now. The extraordinary queue to view the lying-in-state at Westminster Hall reveals the breadth and depth of feeling towards the late Queen, and the warm response to King Charles III, who has so faultlessly performed his constitutional duties, challenges cynicism about the future of the monarchy. Crucially, however, this has not just been a national phenomenon. The world is grieving with us.

Tomorrow, some 2,000 people will attend the funeral service at Westminster Abbey, of whom around a quarter are anticipated to be foreign heads of state and dignitaries. This includes US president Joe Biden, the EU's Ursula von der Leyen, France's Emmanuel Macron, China's vice-president Wang Qishan, and the Japanese Emperor Naruhito (the Shinto religion teaches that death is impure, so the attendance of an Emperor said to be descended from the Goddess of the Sun is historic in itself).

The late Queen's funeral will be an even larger affair than that of John Paul II or Nelson Mandela, and is perhaps the largest since John F Kennedy – and it is a testament to her character and reputation. Her long life provides a bridge to the world's past; she travelled to over 120 countries, making history along the way. Her 1965 journey to West Germany solidified our new friendship after the Second World War. In 1994, she travelled to Moscow and observed that she had never believed in her lifetime that she would be able to visit its cathedral in a post-communist Russia.

The handful of observers who have tried, disingenuously, to tie the late Queen to the controversies of empire simply do not know their history, in particular that she helped to forge a Commonwealth of independent nations that continues to attract new members. No other global statesman alive has served as long or as effectively, with continuity being a key benefit of monarchy. Another is its magnetism. The world is entranced by the mystique of monarchy, by rituals that transcend the noise of the present, connecting the British to their past and to each other.

To many outsiders, Elizabeth II *was* Britain – the embodiment of what they believe our island stands for. Some Britons talk their country down but billions across the planet regard it as benign, curating a sublime tradition and culture. Here, in the heart of a monarchy, are found the origins of modern democracy and civil liberties, and we continue to punch well above our weight culturally, economically and geopolitically. Vladimir Putin will be absent from the funeral, First Lady Olena Zelenska will represent Ukraine: few have done as much as this country to promote Ukraine's right to self-determination. Those who accuse Britain of retreating from the world into a Ruritanian past take a parochial view. The international community sees the UK, like the monarchy, as utterly relevant.

Tomorrow is an opportunity to mourn, but also to be thankful for everything the late Queen did for the nation. Her biography is our recent history. And the traditions she cared about so deeply are now put into the hands of King Charles and his heirs. After Westminster Abbey, Elizabeth II will be taken to Windsor Castle for a service of committal, followed by a private service later on that evening, where the late Queen will finally be laid to rest with her husband Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Their partnership and its fruitful legacy offer hope, in the words of one poet, that our instinct is correct: "What will survive of us is love."

Radical steps will aid growth

Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget on Friday must represent a radical departure from the high tax, big state socialism that the previous Tory government embraced so disastrously. Instead of tax hikes and red tape, the Chancellor must launch a vigorous programme of free market reform to dismantle barriers to investment and revive animal spirits. Instead of the bizarre attitude, held by establishment economists, that it is hubristic to target higher growth, the Chancellor must demolish the Treasury's institutional declinism.

The early signs are positive. Mr Kwarteng is expected to reverse Rishi Sunak's National Insurance increase and scrap the planned rise in corporation tax, which would have further eroded the UK's already damaged competitiveness. He is also reported to be planning to end the cap on bankers' bonuses, which has harmed the City while doing nothing to protect the public from overexuberance in financial services.

But Mr Kwarteng and Liz Truss should be bolder still. Not only do they have to unwind the policy errors made by their predecessors, they need to win back economic ground that has been lost to other countries as Britain has rested on its laurels. And they do not have much time. There are just two years before the next general election and the Government will have to show rapidly that its reforms are delivering results.

Predictably, these proposals have triggered a nervous breakdown among the liberal-Remainer elite, who believe that the only way to increase growth is to rejoin the single market. But Mr Kwarteng must stand his ground. The country cannot afford yet another surrender to the failed Brownite consensus. Nor can the Conservatives.

LETTERS *to the* EDITOR

Young mourners are making clear that the future of Britain's monarchy is secure

SIR – One can't help noticing how many of the people paying their respects to Queen Elizabeth II are in their teens, 20s, 30s and 40s.

What a phenomenal legacy. The late Queen has helped to secure the future of the monarchy for generations to come.

Nigel Lines
Ferndown, Dorset

SIR – Observing the outpourings of affection and grief by "ordinary people" in and around Westminster Hall has reassured me of the loyalty, pride and strength that underpin this nation.

Lt Col Peter Sinclair-Knipe (retd)
Kynaston, Herefordshire

SIR – Watching the 10 o'clock news on Wednesday, I had the impulse – clearly shared by many thousands of others – to join that queue of all queues and pay my respects.

After catching the last train from the West Country, armed only with a packet of Hobnobs and two bananas, I joined the queue at 0.40am, somewhere just east of Southwark Bridge. I emerged from Westminster Hall eight hours later, turning to take in that unique scene.

In recent days your articles have described so well what I experienced: the camaraderie, the sense of purpose, that odd ability everyone had to bond while keeping in formation, the encouragement of volunteers, and the maddening sight of the VIP visitor lanyards, worn by fresh-looking folk as if at some corporate event.

By the time I left I had bonded with a DJ, a junior school teacher and an NHS project manager. Unable to decide what to do next, we sat in stunned silence with takeaway coffees on the Embankment, then went our separate ways.

I opted to retrace my steps in order to see the route in daylight – but also, if I am honest, to savour more of that unique atmosphere. I stopped at the point where I had started and wished a new queuer the best of luck. She laughed at my suggestion that she had another eight hours to go. I bet she considered it a completely insignificant sacrifice, too.

David Greenhalgh
Chippenham, Wiltshire

SIR – I would like to commend the planning of the accessible route to the late Queen's lying in state, and the people staffing it.

I attended late on Wednesday night and was pleasantly surprised to find that seating and hot drinks were being offered to those waiting to start their walk to the line. The availability of a Changing Places facility, alongside the disabled lavatories, was impressive, and is in line with best practice. All staff and volunteers conducted themselves with calm efficiency.

It was wonderful that this route was open to those with long-term medical conditions as well as those with more obvious mobility needs, as we are a group that often gets overlooked. It meant a great deal to all of us in the queue that we had the opportunity to pay our respects.

Jacquie Follett
St Albans, Hertfordshire

SIR – On Thursday, while queueing to pay my respects to the late Queen, I struck up conversation with a Japanese gentleman. He was in London on business and told me that, having arrived from Tokyo that morning, he had shortly thereafter joined the queue.

When I asked where in London he would be watching the funeral, he replied that he wouldn't be in London as he was returning to Tokyo on Friday. He had devoted over seven hours of his very brief time in the capital to paying homage – a testament to the esteem in which the late Queen was and is held around the world.

Alistair Kelly
London SW18

SIR – I find myself in total agreement with Greig Lamont (Letters, September 11) about the calls for a republic in Australia.

It is interesting that, in the run-up to Anthony Albanese's recent election as prime minister, he made (as far as I know) no mention of his intention to appoint a minister for "the" republic. However, by choosing the definite article, he seems to be suggesting that this change is a foregone conclusion.

It was surely outrageous that our governor-general, the monarch's representative, should have been required to "swear in" this minister to a portfolio so contrary to his own position. I was hoping he would refuse to do so.

The current outpouring of sorrow and gratitude, here as elsewhere, demonstrates how universally Elizabeth II was loved. I would also suggest that, for years now, the considerable number of television programmes about the Royal family have reflected more than just interest and, rather, a sense of awe at the mystique of royalty, which transcends politics and day-to-day events.

It is to be hoped that King Charles III will be given a fair go in Australia, and that any referendum, orchestrated by rabble-rousers, will be knocked firmly on its head.

Michael Brown
Armidale, New South Wales, Australia



ALAMY
An Australian postage stamp, one in a series featuring the late Queen, from 1967

SIR – I agree with Greig Lamont that the King has a unique opportunity to strengthen the natural bonds between Australia and Britain. However, the path to realising an Australian republic would not be clear.

The obstacle for republicans is that Australia has a written constitution in which the Crown holds ultimate authority. It is essentially a legally framed description of the Westminster system of government, and can be changed only with great difficulty by referendum. If the Crown, its keystone, is removed, the entire rationale of the document collapses.

The most important distinctions from the Westminster model are that Australia is a federation with a senate and a government-nominated governor-general, instead of a House of Lords and a hereditary monarch.

In a referendum held in November 1999, Australians rejected a proposal to transfer the governor-general's responsibilities to a president directly appointed by the Australian parliament. This remains the only possible practical model for an Australian republic that could be implemented without entirely rewriting the constitution. The referendum's failure was putatively due to widespread republican sentiment that a president ought to be popularly elected. However, a popularly elected president could claim a personal mandate and come into conflict with the conventionally elected parliamentary executive.

Australia arguably has the most stable and democratic system of government in the world. It is not broken, but is unpalatable to many on the Left who perceive its structure to imply obedience to the British Crown. The present activist government may of course opt for radical reform to please its electorate, but if such change comes to fruition, the price to democracy and stability will be high.

J R Francis
Lauderdale, Tasmania, Australia

SIR – Allister Heath (Comment, September 15) is absolutely right. Queen Elizabeth's coffin should have travelled from Scotland to London on the royal train.

It should have come through Newcastle and the ancient city of York to Leeds, then through to Manchester and down to Birmingham.

Are these areas simply considered flyover states?

Carol Ellis
York

SIR – Those who watched the television coverage of the take-off and landing of the RAF Globemaster, which carried the late Queen's coffin from Scotland to London, know why a train journey would not have had the same impact on the public.

The sight of that magnificent aircraft, in suitably muted livery, rising, seemingly slowly but with dignity, into the evening sunset was as moving a departure as anyone could have wished for. The C-17 was also seen by those with tracking apps on their smartphones as it flew south.

A royal train may be appropriate on certain occasions – but this was not one of them.

Allan Muirhead
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria

Truss's energy plan

SIR – Ken Mottram (Letters, September 15) asks why, under Liz Truss's plan, the Government should subsidise his energy bills.

As someone who, although not rich, is fortunately not too worried about rising energy costs, I shall nevertheless have no qualms about accepting help.

For over 60 years I have paid every tax and levy imposed, and so regard the new measures as small compensation for the failure of successive governments to provide adequate, secure generation facilities and the infrastructure for distribution.

John Greaves
Umberleigh, Devon

SIR – John Snook (Letters, September 4) claims it is too late to cancel HS2. Not so – the project is simply going ahead to avoid embarrassment.

Liz Truss's energy plans are estimated to cost £100 billion. Scrapping HS2 could help with that.

Andrew Yeomans
Tring, Hertfordshire

Landlords selling up

SIR – You have highlighted the problems caused by the Government's attacks on landlords, removing many of their rights as property owners.

As a result, in this area and others, people who do not have the means to finance a mortgage are unable to find an affordable property to rent either. Landlords are selling their houses and flats, unwilling to risk being landed with a bad tenant whom they cannot remove. Most take care of their rented properties and treat their tenants well, yet they are being treated as pariahs.

The new Prime Minister faces many challenges, but this situation requires urgent attention.

Robin Nonhebel
Swanage, Dorset

Cashless trap

SIR – Retail outlets are increasingly abandoning the use of cash.

The other day, my wife's friend rang her needing a lift from Doncaster Racecourse as she could not gain entry. She had not brought her card and the racecourse would not accept cash. There was no chance of getting a taxi with the races on.

My wife took her home to get her card then drove her back to the racecourse.

Unless we are careful, this situation will get out of hand and cash will be phased out entirely. Intolerable.

Guy Aston
Doncaster, South Yorkshire

SIR – I too was approached by a fundraiser for the London Air Ambulance (Letters, September 17) who could not take a cash donation but only sign people up for the charity's lottery via direct debit.

Similarly, when I took over my aged mother's financial affairs, I discovered that nearly 10 per cent of her meagre pension was going on direct debits to charities that she had succumbed to.

Keith Appleyard
West Wickham, Kent

Tail end of the night

SIR – The letters (September 4) on cats reminded me of our Siamese, Sally.

She always wanted to go to bed at 10pm. If we had visitors for dinner, as 10pm approached she would walk around the sitting room "talking".

Usually they took the hint and went home.

Chris Moore
Woodbridge, Suffolk

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MATT RIDLEY

The search for Covid-19's origin continues to shock



The Lancet Commission is the latest to highlight how the hunt for the truth has been hindered by a fear of criticising China

The Lancet Commission into "lessons for the future from the Covid-19 pandemic", chaired by the economist Jeffrey Sachs, has concluded that "the origin of the virus remains unknown" and that "both natural and laboratory spillovers are in play and need further investigation". This conclusion matters because there has been an attempt to shut down all curiosity about the origin of the pandemic. The media has been flooded with claims from a small number of virologists that the source of the virus was definitely an infected animal on sale in a market in Wuhan. Yet no such infected animal has been found in the market or elsewhere. In the absence of evidence for a natural spillover of the virus from animals, it is likely that the centrally located market with its vast retail space was the site of an early "superspreader" event among people.

The Sachs Commission points out that a great many related viruses were collected from bats and engineered by a laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in collaboration with US partners in the years leading up to the outbreak. That simple fact puts the Wuhan lab under suspicion. Further, SARS-CoV-2 contains a dangerous feature called a furin cleavage site in its spike gene that is found in no other virus of this kind (the sarbecoviruses). Many scientists admitted early in the pandemic to being baffled as to how it could have acquired this feature naturally yet with minimal other mutations in its spike gene. Last year, a document surfaced showing that, in 2018, scientists in Wuhan and elsewhere were considering inserting exactly such a furin cleavage site into newly discovered sarbecoviruses to test their virulence in human cells.

Bizarrely, headlines in the media have reported that the commission thinks the virus might have been synthesised in a US lab. This is not what the commission says. But consciously or not, the misreporting closely echoes Chinese government misinformation, which has tried to imply that US military labs created SARS-CoV-2 and infected Wuhan during an athletics tournament held there in October 2019.

This is highly unlikely for three reasons. First, there was no US outbreak before Wuhan; second, by far the biggest haul of sarbecoviruses from bats was held in Wuhan; third, there are no wild sarbecoviruses in the Americas because they live in horseshoe bats and there are no horseshoe bats in the Americas. The point Sachs's team is making is that the technology used in Wuhan to create "chimeric" (hybrid) sarbecoviruses and insert material into their genomes originated in the University of North Carolina with other coronaviruses, and it would be nice, to put it mildly, if US researchers who collaborated with Wuhan were more forthcoming about what they know.

The Sachs Commission makes the crucial point that "no independent, transparent, and science-based investigation has been carried out regarding the bioengineering of SARS-like viruses that was under way before the outbreak of Covid-19. The laboratory notebooks, databases, email records, and samples of institutions involved in such research have not been made available to independent researchers". Pause to notice how shocking this is. Around 20 million are dead because of a virus new to the human species. A strong possibility is that it originated in laboratory research that was going on in the city where it started. Yet the notebooks and databases from that lab have never been made available, and many scientists and politicians are not even prepared to criticise the Chinese government over this lack of cooperation.

The reason that prominent Western scientists gave in private emails in 2020 for not wanting to discuss a possible lab origin of the virus was that it might do harm to "international harmony". What happened to seeking the truth?

It would be nice, to put it mildly, if US researchers who collaborated with Wuhan were more forthcoming about what they know



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JANET DALEY

The world has entered a dangerous and self-indulgent Age of Unreason



The death of the Queen seems to mark the definitive end of the 20th century, and the era of confidence and prosperity

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The 20th century is now well and truly over. The death of the Queen who presided over the second half of it may come to represent a critical point in history: the moment when what will be understood historically as a golden age of confidence and prosperity came to an end. After the terrible ideological wars of its first four decades, that century somehow reinvented itself as a time of quite extraordinary progress. It was as if the world – having been engulfed twice by horror and unprecedented mass murder – had made a vow to atone.

International arrangements were made not just to keep the peace but to remedy injustice. For the longest time, it was assumed that this could not possibly work: World War III was inevitable and, this time, the new weapons would bring a final end to the developed world, if not to every living species on the planet. But, paradoxically, it was this very threat of extinction that made such a prospect unthinkable.

Even the irreconcilable global dispute between capitalism and communism did not produce the great conflagration that had been expected. Instead, we had a 50-year-long argument. Indeed, the Cold War – in its purest and most idealised form – was probably the greatest debate in human history since the Protestant Reformation. At its heart were the most fundamental questions imaginable about what made life worth living. And all of this disputation was taking place in the knowledge that, if the argument ever got out of control, the consequences would be catastrophic.

So, bizarrely enough, under the threat of mass extinction and in the wake of the two greatest global conflicts in history, we had a new Age of Reason and, in spite of all the squalid, corrupting back channel trade-offs, a real substantive discourse on the nature of society.

Then the Soviet Union collapsed and for one fleeting second it seemed as if there would be no more need for disputation. The whole world would simply convert to the winning solution. Wealth and security would surely grow and proliferate in this miraculous new climate.

You may be thinking, rather ruefully, that it didn't work out that way – although in fact, for much of the world it did. The wealth and security of many developing countries have indeed increased dramatically in the last 30 years, mainly because they have been able to participate in global free markets without communist interference. But in the advanced societies – on the winning and losing sides – rationality appears to have collapsed in ways that I doubt anyone could have anticipated.

Russia has staged a full-scale retreat into the Middle Ages – which we must assume is genuine although it could simply be a cynical political strategy on the part of its autocratic leadership. Somehow the modern anti-fascist language of the Great Patriotic War is being incorporated into a mystical union with the mission to revive a historic Russian identity which has been extinct for centuries. But what is singular about this psychotic fantasy is that it rules out the possibility of disagreement. What post-communist Russia stands for now is not susceptible to argument. Rational criticism of its assumptions is tantamount to blasphemy.

In the West – particularly the Anglophone democracies – there is, to the astonishment of many of us, a similar rejection of the very idea of debate. Those nations which won hands down the great moral and economic battle of our time are now lost in self-loathing and recrimination over a past for which no one now living is responsible. And anyone who dares to disagree with this judgment – or any of the edicts of the new school of the absurd – is threatened with professional and civil expulsion.

Perhaps there were signs that we should have seen as ominous. This new century began with the momentous trauma of 9/11 and then proceeded with an entirely needless self-inflicted economic crisis in 2008. Suddenly the winners of the Cold War did not look as if they had all the answers and, if you were superstitious, you might have believed that this was a punishment for the hubris that followed the apparent victory.

In the advanced societies, rationality appears to have collapsed in ways that no one could have anticipated

In this new era of unreason, there seems to be no limit to the masochistic frenzy which the developed countries are prepared to encourage – without for a moment considering how self-indulgent and regressive all this is. Promoters of the great climate emergency with its child saint and its wilful determination to dismantle the enormous benefits of the industrial revolution speak glibly of saving The Planet as if it were a sentient being with an awareness of its own life. Or else they propagate fear of an existential threat to the human race as if we were helpless dinosaurs who could easily become extinct.

There is, of course, a rather important difference between us and those sad beasts. Dinosaurs had large bodies and notoriously small brains, whereas we have – relatively speaking – small bodies and large brains. What that means is that we have the capacity for ingenious adaptation to cope with changing circumstances: for the invention and resourcefulness which has served us so well that we have become the most successful species of life on our planet.

One of the most important aspects of this superior intelligence is – or used to be – an understanding of the importance of disagreement. Without argument, there can be no progress in any field – science, economics, politics or moral philosophy. The real lesson of the end of the Cold War should be that the system that was most effective in guaranteeing open debate and the free exchange of ideas was the winner.

It turned out that elected governments directly accountable to their own populations, and free market economics which created once-unimaginable mass prosperity were the conditions under which most people wanted to live and that we could go on improving on the formula with unlimited reasoned dispute. If we just refuse to stop arguing – refuse to be silenced – it might still be possible to emerge from this new Dark Age.

DAVID GOODHART

King Charles seems to glimpse the future of the British monarchy



The irony is that diverse nations need unifying institutions even more

Watching the sea of faces flowing by the late Queen's coffin, each with their distinct manner of saying goodbye, I kept thinking, inappropriately, of the American republic's motto of *e pluribus unum* (out of the many, one). For the role the monarchy plays in providing a focal point for national ritual and identity remains one of its main justifications – and grounds for challenge.

We would, of course, still be a nation even without a monarch and we are very far from *unum* with one. The nation the late Queen came to rule in 1952 also bears little resemblance to the nation of 2022. But that is why the thread of continuity provided by the institution is so valuable to many people, even just as a backdrop to their lives and sometimes a mirror of it.

The psychologist Stephen Reicher wrote last week in *The Guardian*: "I was moved and saddened by the death of Elizabeth, not because I am a royalist but because it made me remember my own mother. And I felt for Harry, who arrived too late, just as I did, hearing she had died while on my way to see her." Progressives are usually prepared to concede no more than this backdrop-cum-mirror role for the royals. For how could a single family of enormous wealth, representing heredity, not merit, do any more than create a stiflingly kitsch notion of unity for such a diverse and divided country?

But there's the rub. Modern, secular, diverse, individualistic democracies need all the help they can get in creating spaces that transcend division and help satisfy the need for a sense of a common life and purpose. Democracy is a child of the nation state but it is an unruly child that rightly challenges the imagined community of the nation by giving voice to conflicts of interest and increasingly deep value divides.

Britain, as Sunder Katwala of the think tank British Future, points out, is lucky in having several institutions that muffle our divisions and command the loyalty of most liberals and conservatives: Team GB, the Armed Forces, the NHS, the BBC (on a good day) and the monarchy. Arguments rage over most, but polarised America and France have shorter lists. In the age of Brexit, Scottish separatism, north-south and graduate/non-graduate divides, is it sensible to shorten our own?

In a democratic age, the monarchy must evolve as the nation evolves, as King Charles evidently understands. The blanket monarchical consensus of the past few days hides a more sceptical undercurrent. British Future polling in June found that almost 60 per cent of the public want to keep the monarchy for the foreseeable future but 25 per cent think that the death of the Queen – who buoyed support for the institution through longevity and old-school virtues – would be a good time to become a republic. Only a minority of Scots, young adults and ethnic minority Britons are actively in favour.

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King Charles's challenge is to reach out to these groups without alienating the traditionalist base of support, and at a time when most people in Britain identify with more than one flag and national identity. He made a decent start in his first address as King, pledging that he would respect the principles of constitutional monarchy while passing on the role of "bringing the marginal to the centre ground" to William and Kate. He also extended an olive branch to Harry and Meghan who remain popular with young people.

The modernising gestures we are likely to see in the coming months will irritate some traditionalists but they should try to see it as just the necessary evolution of the welfare monarchy – the dominant ethos for the last 50 years, promoting charity and volunteering. With the fading of religious belief, perhaps the role of the welfare monarch is also to provide God-like unconditional recognition, even "love", to all citizens, particularly those who feel excluded.

The death of a monarch may never again produce the kind of global response we have seen in recent days. The late Queen is the last of something. But never mind if the world stops paying us so much attention. The more important question is whether the monarchy can sustain its peculiar balance of the ordinary and extraordinary, and remain a cornerstone of national identity, for our own wellbeing.

DANIEL HANNAN

The bankers' bonus cap is a legacy of our EU membership we can no longer afford to keep



It may be a popular policy, but politicians who sacrifice long-term prosperity for short-term political gain usually end up forfeiting both

On Friday, Kwasi Kwarteng seems set to announce the lifting of the cap on bankers' bonuses that Britain inherited from the EU. The Chancellor is doing the right thing, but also the hard thing. The limit is costly, perverse and self-defeating, hurting our competitiveness and reducing the Government's revenue. Yet it is also popular. As anyone who has watched BBC One's *Question Time* over the past 15 years knows, no two words are more certain to send the audience into incoherent rage than "bankers' bonuses".

The odd thing about the restriction, conceived in the wake of the 2008 crash, and effective from 2014, is that it fails in its own terms. Not only does it drive business away from the City. It also ensures that bankers are (to use a phrase much in vogue following the financial crisis) rewarded for failure.

A bonus is a share of profit. A financier who loses money – as many did in 2008 – won't get one. It is true that some people managed to claim bonuses on the basis of what later turned out to be short-term gains, but banks have wised up to this, and now claw back pay-outs based on illusory revenues.

Capping bonuses creates perverse incentives. Banks whack up their basic salaries to compensate, which means their employees take home fat cheques even when losing money. Ingenious ways are found to make up the difference – for example, paying larger pension contributions. HR departments swell, compliance costs grow, and London loses the agility on which its wealth used to rest.

It also loses its best people, as the money that used to be paid out in London is diverted to rival centres, prompting the brightest and hungriest people to gravitate to those places. Goldman Sachs admits that the bonuses that may no longer be paid in Britain or the EU now go to its employees in New York and Singapore.

Those who say "good riddance to the greedy so-and-sos" miss the point. In order to indulge their greed – in order to get rich – they need to generate returns, thus incidentally enriching the rest of us by bringing money into the country, endowing our pensions and, not least, paying our taxes. Remember that approximately half of every bonus goes to the Government. The City is, so to speak, a 50-50 joint venture with HMG. Its profits keep the British state afloat.

In the aftermath of the 2008 banking collapse, the idea got about that the problem had been deregulation. In fact, the rule-book had been growing thicker by the year and, with the exception of nuclear power, it was hard to find a more heavily regulated sector. But voters were in no mood to hear this. They wanted bankers to suffer.

Such was the atmosphere when Brussels introduced the bonus cap. I recall a British minister – a committed Europhile who went on to campaign for Remain – telling me at the time that Brussels was "trying to slash our tyres".

He was right. I was then an MEP, and I remember how people talked in Brussels. The financial crisis was blamed on "Anglo-Saxon capitalism". London was seen as a lawless freeport run by spivs. Financiers were portrayed as parasitic, moving money about on screens, while honest European workers made things, drove things, dug things.

Human beings have always struggled to understand that optimising the allocation of capital is a service, just as operating a forklift is a service. Anti-capitalism, the instinct that drove medieval mobs to attack "profiteers", fused with a Euro-federalist dislike of Britain, and numerous measures that were disadvantageous to London were pushed through, of which the bonus cap was one. The British government voted against them in the European Council, but lost.

Why, then, have they not been scrapped? Why, six years after the referendum, and two-and-a-half years after Brexit, are ministers only now

Scrapping the cap will make Britain better off. So will scrapping the associated EU financial service restrictions

getting around to repealing measures which they opposed at the time?

Part of the answer has to do with institutional inertia. Civil servants are brilliant at finding reasons not to do things, especially when those things involve diverging from the EU. But the larger answer is cowardice. No minister likes having to explain why people in financial services earn more than nurses.

In truth, the explanation is simple enough. Banking is dull work that requires exceptionally clever people. No child grows up wanting to be a banker rather than, say, a soldier or a writer or a diplomat. But financial institutions handle such quantities of cash that employing someone who is 1 per cent better makes a huge difference. So they must buy such people out from their dreams of being soldiers or writers or diplomats.



REUTERS/TOBY MELVILLE

Making Britain better off: Kwasi Kwarteng, the Chancellor, is expected to lift the cap on bankers' bonuses

Then again, try saying that on *Question Time*. Or try saying: "As long as no taxpayers' cash is involved, it's none of our business." Boris Johnson's besetting weakness was his reluctance to court short-term unpopularity. For all his talk of global Britain, he found it easier to let things lie.

Well, not any more. Liz Truss understands that the only way out of the lockdown mess is to expand the economy. This means tugging at every lever and stabbing at every button, from easier fracking to lower child-care staff ratios.

The biggest gains, though, are in financial services – the only sector with the muscle-mass needed to drag Britain back to growth. Lifting the bonus cap is one way to attract businesses (and talented individuals) to our jurisdiction, but it is by no means the only way. We have inherited a great deal of anti-competitive regulation from the EU in the Solvency II and MiFID II packages, the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive and other banker-bashing measures.

Again, Britain opposed these rules at the time. And, since the EU has made it clear that it will not offer easier access to British financial services providers, even when they operate under identical regulations, there is now no argument whatever for keeping them. We need a Big Bang 2.0 – a mass repeal that will restore the City's global pre-eminence.

It won't be easy. For one thing, existing operators have learned how to live with these rules. Many of the firms that fiercely resisted them when they were brought in have now assimilated the compliance costs, and so lost interest in repeal. Worse, they don't want to be undercut by new entrants, and so have perversely become advocates for the regulations they used to oppose.

For another, those who dream of rejoining the EU, or at least rejoining large parts of it, fiercely resist deregulation. This matters, because such people are concentrated in Parliament (especially the Lords) and in the Civil Service. One of the reasons the Chancellor was said to want to sack the Treasury's permanent secretary, Sir Tom Scholar, was that the mandarin was reportedly an aggressive Brexit blocker.

But the biggest problem, as always, is the electorate's suspicion of deregulation. Most people have an anti-market bias, stemming from a misplaced focus on the motives of business chiefs. More than half of voters, for example, attribute rising energy prices to the "greed" of the companies involved, as if prices were purely determined by what providers feel like charging.

The logical corollary of that view, of course, would be that any fall in prices is down to the generosity of the same companies. But logic plays little role here. Most human beings begin with their gut feelings and reason backwards. The idea that the market harnesses private greed for public benefit – that, as Adam Smith famously put it, "it is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own self-interest" – is a difficult one.

Then again, if politicians simply followed opinion polls, they would nationalise all utilities, raise spending to Soviet levels and fix prices, rents and incomes. There are, in short, good reasons why the country votes every four or five years on an overall economic package rather than deciding each individual measure by referendum.

Scrapping the bonus cap will make Britain better off. So will scrapping the associated EU financial services restrictions brought in over the past 15 years. That, in the end, is what counts. A government that sacrifices long-term prosperity to short-term popularity ends up forfeiting both.

So, to anticipate the angry *Question Time* audience, why should bankers be able to get bigger bonuses when public sector workers are struggling with effective pay freezes? Frankly, I'd like to see public-sector workers given largely performance-related salaries, too, starting with a presumption that they won't be paid unless they are prepared to turn up to their place of work. It would only be fair.

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RICHARD KEMP

The Russian empire is already falling apart



Moscow's disastrous war in Ukraine is weakening its influence in former Soviet states that it has long dominated

Some have predicted that Russia will disintegrate in the face of humiliation in Ukraine. Perhaps, but we are already beginning to see signs of the weakening of Moscow's hold on its "near abroad" – the former Soviet states that have remained under close Russian influence. Domination of Moscow's erstwhile empire is vital for Putin's rehabilitation of Russia as a great power, but his disastrous war in Ukraine may have fatally undermined it.

The conflict has inflicted economic damage on all of the former Soviet states, mostly dependent to one degree or another on Moscow. It has also affected their own security concerns in different ways: some emboldened by Russian setbacks, some fearful for their own independence, and some realising they may not be able to rely on hobbled Moscow for help when they need it.

Azerbaijan last week, for example, launched a deadly attack on Armenian towns outside the Nagorno-Karabakh, region, testing Moscow's appetite for intervention while on the back foot in Ukraine. Since brokering a ceasefire between the two sides in 2020, Russia has maintained a 2,000-strong peacekeeping force in Nagorno-Karabakh, now reportedly scaled-back to stoke the fighting in Ukraine. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have been looking increasingly to the West, including for mediation, a bitter pill for Moscow to swallow with its own regional influence diminished. Last month, Armenian prime minister Nikol Pashinyan voiced unprecedented criticism of his Russian ally, questioning the effectiveness of the peacekeepers, and last week called for assistance that he knows Moscow is not in a position to deliver.

Armenia's concern is twofold – first that Azerbaijan will continue to exploit Russian weakness and, second, that Moscow will pressure it to join the Union State of Russia and Belarus after emerging from the Ukraine war. Neighbouring Georgia, 20 per cent of whose territory has been occupied by Russia since the invasion in 2008, shares Armenia's fear of Russian subjugation, which partially accounts for accusations of "benevolent neutrality" towards Moscow, including sanctions-busting. One of the most westward-looking of the former Soviet states, it is not hard to imagine Tbilisi's stance shifting if Ukraine continues to expose the Kremlin's weaknesses.

Even Kazakhstan, a close and long-term ally of Russia, has stayed neutral over the war, refusing to help Moscow evade sanctions and rejecting Russian demands to recognise independence for Donetsk and Luhansk. It has even offered to increase energy supplies to the EU and find a gas route that bypasses Russia.

Last month, Kazakhstan, along with the other central Asian states, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

The political elites in Moscow will surely be wondering whether it's time to change horses

and Uzbekistan, discussed diversifying trade routes to avoid Russia and explored the prospects of a regional security alliance among the five countries to fill an expected Russian power vacuum. As former Soviet states in Europe and the Caucasus look west, central Asian states look east to China, both for economic support and, increasingly, for security.

This instability risks Putin not only failing to achieve his grand plan of drawing former Soviet states deeper into Russia's sphere of influence but also reducing his control over some that have been there for years. His goals are shared by the political elites in Moscow and, as they watch the gulf widening between their objectives and his ability to deliver them, they will surely be wondering whether it's time to change horses. Putin cannot afford for this humiliation to continue.

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DAVID ABULAFIA

Elizabeth II was the universal queen who proved Britain isn't a second-rate power



Keeping a faraway link to the British crown has been of real value to countless countries across the world

Royal funerals in one country inevitably attract the royalty of other countries. For one thing, they are mostly related to one another. But the late Queen's funeral tomorrow is likely to be the largest gathering of crowned heads, their spouses and their heirs in over 100 years, during which time several European monarchies have vanished and their empires have dissolved. Then there are all the uncrowned heads of state who will be attending: scores of presidents chosen by popular vote or by national parliaments.

Why should the funeral of a monarch whose empire has vanished attract such affection and admiration? Respect for such an ancient monarchy and awe at the split-second perfection of royal ceremonial count for something. But although the sun still never sets on the British empire, today we are only talking about Gibraltar, St Helena and some Pacific and Caribbean islands, dots on the map whose strategic significance lies in the past.

Then there are the independent territories over which Elizabeth II was Queen, from massive Canada to tiny Tuvalu. Some are said to be in a constitutional tangle, because on independence they explicitly adopted the Queen as their head of state and did not give thought to the succession of a King. A few of these countries say they are planning referenda about becoming a republic.

Yet the response to the death of Queen Elizabeth reveals that her reach extended far beyond the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. As decolonisation progressed, empire seemed to be replaced by something ethereal, lacking in real substance, a Commonwealth of nations that was not a Common Market or a version of Nato.

Yet Elizabeth II transformed this organisation, gradually but successfully, into one that countries which had never fallen under British rule, such as Mozambique and Rwanda, were keen to join. Rwanda sought to build ties with the Anglophone world, turning its back on its French-speaking Belgian colonial heritage.

Nowadays the word "empire" conjures up images of what is loosely called imperialism: an attitude of mind that encourages the grabbing of territories, often for economic gain, without giving thought to the wishes of their populations. If that sounds rather like Vladimir Putin's treatment of Ukraine, that is because such imperial dreams persist. Empire is a dirty word.

But empire has taken many forms in history, and rulers of faraway lands have often deliberately placed themselves under the loose protection of other, greater rulers. Several

Her remote presence was a guarantee of government legitimacy; she was an anchor for democracy

medieval rulers sought to ensure the legitimacy of their rule by acknowledging the loose universal authority of the Holy Roman Emperor or the Byzantine emperor (the Pope too, but that proved more problematic).

When the Chinese emperor Yongle sent massive fleets of ships into the Indian Ocean at the start of the 15th century, he was proclaiming the universal authority of the "Middle Kingdom". But the rulers in Bengal and east Africa who acknowledged his superiority were not demeaning themselves – their own authority was enhanced by gaining the approval of a distant leader who had no opportunity to interfere in their internal affairs.

Claims to universal rule have long vanished, and on his coins the Queen's father was only IND.IMP., "Emperor of India", not emperor of Great Britain and its possessions. Alliances have taken the place of protective relationships. But maintaining a faraway link to Queen Elizabeth has been of real value.

Where she was head of state, her remote presence was a guarantee of the local government's legitimacy; she was an anchor for democracy. Indeed, her remoteness was one of the most important features of her reign over those countries. Republicans may insist that having a local figure as president is more democratic, but what her overseas territories really acquired was an impartial and neutral head of state above politics. By contrast, few states elect even ceremonial presidents without a long political career.

The global presence of the late Queen has been a feature of world press coverage in the last few days. On the front page of American newspapers, she simply appeared as The Queen. With all due respect, will there be the same press coverage when any other European king or queen pass on the baton?

Great Britain has successfully exercised the softest of soft power, as Her Majesty travelled the world. Through his own well-publicised travels, the former Prince of Wales, too, has attracted international attention on a scale denied to, say, the heiress to the Dutch throne, whose name even Dutch people may struggle to recall. King Charles will be easily able to slide into the same role as his mother.

Those who disparage the United Kingdom as a small second-rate power living off its imperial past should realise that Queen Elizabeth II made its voice heard across the globe in ways that other nations could only envy. Obviously not Queen of the world, Elizabeth II was nonetheless Queen to the world.

David Abulafia is a professor of history at the University of Cambridge

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Isolated Putin is left at the mercy of Beijing as his disastrous war backfires

The Russian president cuts a lonely figure, even among friends. His only option may be a humiliating reliance on China, says *Szu Ping Chan*

Vladimir Putin infamously kept Queen Elizabeth II waiting for 14 minutes during a state visit in 2003. Officials at the Palace were already nervous. The Russian president was notoriously tardy, in future years showing up late to meetings with former US presidents Donald Trump, Barack Obama and even keeping the Pope waiting for almost an hour.

Some believed he wouldn't dare do that to a monarch. But when the delay materialised, then home secretary David Blunkett – and his guide dog – were audibly annoyed. "My then dog barked very loudly," Blunkett recalled in an interview this year.

When he apologised to his host for the barking, the late Queen's decision to break royal protocol with a six-word reply captured the mood: "Dogs have interesting instincts, don't they?"

How the tables have turned on Putin. The man who often left his ex-wife waiting for hours when they started dating was himself standing alone on Thursday. The offender was no monarch or Holy See, but the president of Kyrgyzstan.

Sadyr Japarov, the leader of the world's 142nd-biggest economy, isn't exactly a household name. The moment was captured on camera, Putin awkwardly shuffling his cue cards around as he stood waiting for Japarov to saunter into shot. If there was any doubt over Putin's place in the world order, this excruciating 45 seconds proved the Russian bear is wounded.

Another sign of the shifting balance of power in the region was Putin's carefully-worded statement ahead of his meeting with Xi Jinping, China's premier. The meeting itself was Xi Jinping's first foray outside China since the pandemic hit. It was billed as a gathering of Asia's strongmen. But talks in the ancient Silk Road desert city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan left no doubt as to who was the junior partner in this relationship.

Putin said he acknowledged Chinese "concerns" about the Kremlin's war in Ukraine. It was the first significant admission of differences between Beijing and Moscow over the conflict. While he praised Beijing's "balanced position", Putin said he would explain himself on the sidelines of the meeting.

By contrast, Xi did not mention Ukraine at all in his remarks, stating instead that China was "willing to work with Russia to demonstrate the responsibility of big powers" and ironically to "instil stability and positive energy in a world of chaos".

Even India, which has shied away from explicitly condemning Russia for the invasion, spoke out. Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, told Putin that "today's time is not a time for war" and stressed the importance of "democracy and diplomacy and dialogue". His comments drew a response from the Russian leader, who said the Kremlin would "do our best to end this as soon as possible".

As the tectonic plates shift, and Putin suffers setbacks on the battlefield, the Russian leader's waning influence is clearer than ever. And observers are left wondering: who will rescue the Russian president from this self-inflicted disaster? Will China, long a junior partner in the relationship with Moscow, seize this moment to make its neighbour into a vassal state?

Analysts said Putin's acknowledgement of frictions between the countries was telling. "I think the what we saw was pretty clear evidence of where the balance of power within the Eurasian landmass itself has shifted," says Maximilian Hess, a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research (FPR) Institute. "Putin acknowledging Xi's concerns which he didn't even directly vocalise himself is certainly a very clear sign that there are differences in opinion of how to approach Ukraine and Russia's approach to it."

Alexander Gabuev, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington DC, agrees that the relationship between Russia and China is far from equal. "Russia is reorienting itself to China. But their relationship now is deeply asymmetric. China is clearly the stronger partner," he says. "That said, the Chinese are skilfully massaging Russia's ego with their rhetoric. And their broader attitudes toward each other helps. China doesn't care about Alexei Navalny [the Putin critic who has been poisoned and thrown in prison by the Kremlin] and Russia doesn't care about Xinjiang. That provides a type of glue for their relationship that makes it more comfortable for them to talk."

Easy or not, Putin has a reason to be humble. The man who has vowed to only deal with "friendly" nations is quickly losing them.

Moscow has also suffered setbacks in Ukraine amid a lack of manpower and supply challenges. Several stories suggest momentum is shifting towards Ukrainian counter-attacks.

Despite the bloody backdrop, Russia remains determined to challenge the world order, a goal that it shares with its Chinese counterpart. A statement issued by Moscow and Beijing during this year's Winter Olympics stated their friendship was one with "no limits" or "forbidden" areas of co-operation. But despite the warm







ALEXANDR DEMYANCHUK/SPUTNIK/AFP VIA GETTY; SERGEI BOBYLEV/SPUTNIK/KREMLIN POOL/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK; JUAN BARRETO / AFP

Turning tables: China's president Xi Jinping stands next to Vladimir Putin this month, at the 22nd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Heads of State Council in Uzbekistan, far left. Right, a destroyed Russian tank in Ukraine's Kharkiv region



words, it is a relationship that foreign policy expert and independent analyst Bobo Lo describes as an "axis of convenience".

It is worth remembering that relations between China and Russia have not always been cordial. For almost a quarter of a century the two nations were Cold War adversaries, with the relationship characterised by bitter quarrelling from the 1960s over borders and invasions of Afghanistan and Vietnam. Whether or not their relationship is based on convenience or ideology, both see opportunities for more trade, mutual de-dollarisation and an opportunity to win new customers. After all, China needs fuel to fire up its factories and Russia needs cash and technology to build its economy. And both need friends. But can Putin's eastern pivot save the Kremlin from disaster?

For Russia, where oil and gas revenues account for more than a third of the nation's budget, finding a new home for the millions of barrels of oil that the EU and other countries plan to shun is a priority. Soaring prices helped Russia earn $1billion (£880million) a day in the first 100 days of the war.

Analysts at Barclays say high gas prices have also helped to prop up Gazprom. It "conservatively" estimates that at $70billion, the state-backed energy firm has already generated more revenue this year than in the whole of 2021, which was already the most profitable for the group in recent years. But sanctions have squeezed revenue streams, and sources for cash are narrowing by the day.

Russia used to supply about a third of the EU's oil imports and 40 per cent of its gas. While oil imports have fallen more slowly, the bloc's share of gas from Russia has dropped from about 40 per cent before the war to about 20 per cent today, partly due to Russia cutting off supplies.

But signs of a looming cash crunch are already evident. Europe's pivot away from Moscow has forced it to sell oil at a steep discount in Asian markets in some cases, depriving it of the full benefit of higher prices.

Oil and gas revenues fell 13 per cent to $11.1billion last month, the lowest since June 2021. The EU currently imports around three million barrels of oil per day from Russia, but the bloc's plan to stop using Moscow's crude from December and all oil products from next February will have a bigger impact on Russian revenues.

Other countries are following suit. IEA data show that the US, South Korea and Japan, which were on average importing a million barrels of oil a day before the war, have cut purchases to almost zero today. That leaves about four million barrels of oil every day without a home. China, India and Turkey have already picked up some of the slack. The three countries have increased Russian imports from around two million barrels of oil per day before the war to more than three million barrels in the last few months.

However, Gabuev says there are limits to how much oil China can purchase from Moscow. As analysts at Morgan Stanley highlight, Russia is already the largest crude oil supplier to China, accounting for about a fifth of imports over the past two months.

Experts say this is far above historical averages. They note that even Saudi Arabia has not supplied more than 20 per cent of China's imports over a 12-month period in the last decade. There's only so much black gold even China can burn.

Other options include increasing supply to countries in Africa, which imports four million barrels per day; South America, which imports 1.5 million barrels; and other Asian nations, which need seven million barrels – though with South Korea and Japan already shunning Russian crude, the latter option looks unlikely.

Courting more market share could also spark diplomatic tensions. "All those countries have existing suppliers, from which Russia would need to take market share," Morgan Stanley analysts said in a note.

Russia is also looking east to build the Power of Siberia 2 pipeline, which is expected to run through Mongolia from western Russia and will power China's energy-hungry economy .

Once built, around 50 billion cubic meters of natural gas will run through the pipeline per year, representing a third of what Russia used to sell to Europe. Alexander Novak, the Russian energy minister, claims this will replace the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that was planned to run to Germany.

The eastern gas pipelines have been in the works since 2006, with Power of Siberia 1 now up and running and China agreeing to a 30-year deal to import natural gas. Its successor is expected to begin building works in 2024. "There's no other big market apart from China that Russia can sell its gas to," says Gabuev. "So building a pipeline there is the easiest way forward. He adds that the project provides a win-win solution for both countries.

"It's going to be the cheapest gas that China gets from anywhere. Any concern that Mongolia is an unreliable partner in the project has also gone."

While flows of gas through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline are unlikely to resume any time soon, Barclays believes that a full cut-off from Europe is unlikely. It believes the Turkstream pipeline, which runs under the Black Sea and delivers gas to Turkey, Serbia and Hungary, can keep Gazprom profitable if gas prices remain high .

Trade ties between Russia and China are also growing. Goods trade between the two countries surged 31 per cent to $117.2billion in the first eight months of 2022, according to Chinese customs data. That's already 80 per cent of last year's record total. Meanwhile, Chinese spending on Russian goods soared 60 per cent in August compared with a year ago, while its shipments to Russia jumped 26 per cent to $8billion in August.

But Russia remains a small part of China's trade, at just 2.8 per cent of its total trade volume. That figure is dwarfed by the EU and US.

William Jackson, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, says the importance of two of the largest trading blocs in the world means China will remain cautious when it comes to trading with Moscow.

"China is a vastly larger economy, it's more integrated in the global economy. It's really Russia that's more dependent on China than the other way around," he says.

"Chinese officials are worried about sanctions on Russia and the risks that secondary sanctions could be introduced that could affect them. They're not going to help Russia out at the expense of their own broader interests. For Beijing, the West is a much bigger market than Russia. It would be a big risk to face that threat of sanctions from the West just for the sake of continuing to do business with them."

> 'Their relationship now is deeply asymmetric. China is clearly the stronger partner'

Gabuev says the relationship between China, Russia and the US is more nuanced.

"China understands that it mustn't cross American red lines," he says.

"But the real question for them is: if we throw Vladimir Putin under a bus, does it fundamentally change our relationship with the US? Or will Washington just pocket that win and keep up its pressure on Taiwan, Xinjiang and intellectual property theft? In short, dumping Russia will not result in any real improvement in relations with the US, so why would they do it? I think Beijing will be careful not to cross any red lines, but otherwise it is going to be happy exploring opportunities."

One country that Hess at the FPR believes the world must keep an eye on is Turkey.

He says Ankara is providing Russia with one of the "biggest loopholes for the current sanctions regime".

Since the start of the war, Moscow has found ways to import sanctioned goods via nations that haven't cut ties with the Kremlin – and Turkey is one of them. It has become a destination for billions of pounds more in imports from countries that aren't supposed to be trading with Vladimir Putin's regime.

Gabuev notes that Turkey's exports to Russia have grown by 50per cent since the start of the war. It's also quickly becoming a middleman for luxury goods.

Pre-orders for the new iPhone have more than doubled since last year, notes Gabuev, even though Apple pulled out of the country at the start of the war.

"The price has gone up significantly though," he notes from conversations with Russian friends. "To use the Russian term, there's been an increase in 'parallel imports'." In English, that's called "smuggling".

Many people pre-order the phones to go to Turkey. But everyone knows the real destination is Russia. Both Hess and Gabuev believe Washington will need to engage in a charm offensive with Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to cut off this channel. But they must tread carefully. "Turkey has a lot of leverage at the moment," says Gabuev, "over Sweden and Finland's accession to Nato. It also helped to broker a grain deal between Russia and Ukraine."

'McDonald's has a different name, but it tastes exactly the same," says one analyst still based in Russia. The golden arches may have been dismantled, but they've been replaced with a new firm, "Vkusno-i tochka" – which broadly translates as "Delicious, that's all" in Russian.

Lots of people have already fled, including Gabuev. He says friends who are still there say life is "more or less normal at the moment. Prices are up a little bit. Many western brands have left. But people can still go to shops in Istanbul for Zara and H&M. For the middle class nothing has changed really".

While Russia has stopped publishing all but the most selective statistics, Jackson at Capital Economics says the economy today is also in better shape than some might have predicted. "Russia has been drawing down its savings," he says.

"They've returned to the domestic bond market and they've been helped in this regard by the fact that the rouble has strengthened, which means inflation has really come down a long way." That allowed the central bank to lower interest rates this week to 7.5 per cent.

"That means borrowing costs for the government are lower than they were a few months ago," Jackson adds. "At the same time, we've seen a surge in energy prices. Russia's been in quite a strong position. So even though it has defaulted on its foreign bonds, there's little to worry about on the fiscal side at the moment."

Capital Economics also highlights that Russia didn't often issue debt on international markets anyway. The outstanding value of its foreign exchange bonds amounted to $37billion, which it says is comparable to Chile and the Philippines.

Looking ahead, Goldman Sachs notes that Russia is also increasingly issuing debt in Chinese yuan. Liquidity in the yuan market recently overtook that of the dollar market, while some companies, including aluminium giant Rusal and Polyus, Russia's largest gold miner, are already issuing yuan-denominated debt. "This is likely to be followed by the sovereign," Goldman said in a note.

But Gabuev says pain is coming, as are fundamental changes to Russia's economy. "Sanctions will take time. The real pain is a year from now when the EU shuns Russian energy and a price cap takes effect. We are currently in month eight."

A shortage of parts due to sanctions is also expected to hit the economy more. Russia currently makes cars without basic safety features like airbags and anti-lock braking systems in order to keep local production going.

"You'll have to be a Formula 1 driver just to go to the shops," says one Russian analyst.

Gabuev thinks these problems will mount up. "Russia is behind on making cutting-edge semiconductors by between ten and 15 years, according to some reports but I think that's optimistic. The lag could be more like 30 years. So either they smuggle them in. Or wait until China catches up with the technology. Either way, it will take years."

So what does that mean for consumers and the wider economy? "Russia is going to become like Iran," says Gabuev.

"Think about what technology was like in the 1990s, when cars and electronics were made before the era of modern chips. We're going to see more patchwork solutions. Maybe we'll see more Walkmans," he jokes.

For Hess, the endgame is near. "Russia is going from an autocratic market economy to an autarky with the trappings of a market economy, but it isn't one at all because the state will continue to dominate," he says. "It's going to look more like North Korea or Turkmenistan, even though Russia is larger and has more commodities. I think the real economic indicator is household disposable income. That's taken a big hit since Putin's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and I don't think it will ever recover while Putin is in charge."

In future, the Russian president may find he spends a lot more time waiting for others to come to his aid.

Does Brandy Melville body-shame teenagers?



CLARA MOLDEN FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Famous for its XS sizing, the fashion outlet is deeply problematic, so why is it still trading, ask *Laura Craik* and *Janet Eastham*

It's Saturday afternoon, and my tween and teenage daughters are after some Brandy. It's not the alcoholic tipple that they are hankering for, even if their fix of choice is, many parents would argue, equally bad for them.

The Brandy they desire is Brandy Melville, a fashion outlet beloved in their circle for its comfortable sweatpants, cropped T-shirts and ribbed vest tops decorated with floral sprigs. Unless you have teens and tweens in your life, it's unlikely that the label will have crossed your radar, despite it having 97 stores worldwide. So popular is Brandy Melville among nine- to 15-year-old girls that, like Madonna, no full name is required: it's just Brandy. The celebrities who wear the brand are famous enough to need no surname: Kendall, Bella, Taylor and Ariana. Its airy, distressed wood interiors reeking of laidback Californian cool make Brandy Melville's stores feel welcoming to everyone.

Only they're not. Since at least 2012, Brandy Melville has only sold its flimsy crop tops, skirts and dresses in one size – XS/S – equivalent to a UK dress size two to six, depending on the cut. And while this sizing might be perfect for your nine- or 10-year-old daughter when she first discovers the brand, it can be catastrophic for your older, taller or wider daughter, or even your petite nine-year-old when her allegiance keeps her coming back to buy more Brandy, years after puberty has set in.

"Brandy was where I bought most of my clothes from the age of about 11," remembers 16-year-old Molly. "I loved it. All my friends wore it, and it felt like belonging to a club. Girls can be really judgmental at secondary school, but I felt if I wore Brandy, I'd be safe from criticism."

Molly's eyes well up as she continues. "I remember being 13 and going in to buy something. Nothing fitted. None of the jeans would zip up, and the tops were so tight they looked embarrassing. My body had changed. I was mortified – in tears in the changing room. I ate nothing for the rest of the day. I felt like a big fat failure. It sounds stupid now, but at 13, you're too young to realise the clothes should fit you, and that you shouldn't have to change your body to fit the clothes."

Litzi, 17, is also no longer a fan. In her tweens, the north Londoner was in awe of the brand. Just a few short years later, she looks back at her former enthusiasm with bafflement. "Why would I ever want to shop at a place like this?" she says.

Lest its impressionable fans be in any doubt over how their favourite brand requires them to look, the Brandy Melville aesthetic is reinforced in every store and on every social feed. Across their Instagram and TikTok accounts, which boast four million followers combined, there's barely an image that doesn't feature a tiny midriff, while its stores display adverts of young girls with tanned limbs and blonde hair that look as though they stepped off a beach in Malibu. "I hate shopping there," says Rowena, 48. "I hate that a cardigan costs £32 when it would be a third of the price in H&M but most of all, I hate that my child can barely see her own image reflected in a store that she so bafflingly admires."

Despite eating disorder charities, politicians and parents criticising the brand for its "one size fits all" policy, Brandy Melville's only concession has been to grudgingly sell their jeans in a small and medium. Almost every other garment is still one size, and if you're not built like a prepubescent tween, it's unlikely to fit.

Trying to get in contact with anyone at the company to ask why Brandy Melville still refuses to stock anything above a size six is not straightforward. The website does however hold one clue to the brand's origins: olive oil, which is incongruously sold for £15 a bottle alongside the brand's usual fare. Although Brandy Melville was put on the map when its first US store opened in Los Angeles in 2009, the business was set up many years before – in Italy – by Silvio Marsan. Notwithstanding its American aspirations and Italian heritage, Brandy Melville is now based primarily in Switzerland. It is Silvio's son, Stephan Marsan, who is the company's current chief executive.

A former executive reportedly claimed that, as of 2019, the brand's global annual income was more than $250 million (£216 million). But given the company is private, with assets primarily located in a jurisdiction not known for its financial transparency, it's difficult to estimate how much money the brand is currently making from their cult-like teenage following.



Brandy fans: shopper Alitzia Nuki, 17, in Soho; Anna Winter, Maya Jama, Kaia Gerber, Nicole Poturalski and Gigi Hadid

The accounts for three Brandy Melville-affiliated companies registered in the UK reveal that they were collectively charged royalties of over £1.4 million last year for use of the Brandy trademark. This money is being directly sent to a Swiss-based company and is not taxed in the UK. With the CEO proving hard to reach, the next port of call was Alfonso Sarracino, director of the British operation. Perhaps he could explain the logic behind this curious corporate structure? Unfortunately when *The Sunday Telegraph* arrived at a London address owned by Mr Sarracino, the intercom rang out. It appeared the company director was not in.

It's in the court cases filed in Los Angeles that the most alarming claims are made about Brandy Melville. In August 2020, two men who ran its stores in Canada claimed that Stephan Marsan's brother, Yvan, who also works for the family business, told them to hire "attractive white girls", and shut down a store because the customers there were "too ghetto". The pair, Franco Sorgi and Paolo Simeone, alleged that Stephan Marsan reiterated these requests. Three months prior, Luca Rotondo, a former Brandy Melville senior vice president, had also filed a suit.

Mr Rotondo claimed he was asked "multiple times" by his superiors to "fire female employees based on their physical appearance". In response, the company denied it "has ever fired an employee on account of his or her race" and robustly challenged the claims. Mr Rotondo's case was dismissed at his request, after he was unable to obtain a visa to return to the US to pursue the case. But in June this year, Mr Sorgi and Mr Simeone won their lawsuit, with the judge ordering Brandy Melville to pay them $806,000 in damages and other costs.

> 'I remember at 13 going in to buy something. Nothing fitted. My body had changed'

Given the nature of the allegations levelled at Brandy Melville, it is striking that, in an era of cancel culture, the brand appears to have survived relatively unscathed; its tween and teen customers, usually so socially aware, still queuing up to buy into the brand.

With no response from Brandy Melville, its executives, or the lawyers who represent them, a *Telegraph* reporter went to Mr Marsan's home in New York. But there's an issue: a locked, three-foot high gate prevents anyone from approaching the building.

Brandy Melville has no public face, and its deliberate opacity appears to be the perfect smokescreen for a lack of accountability that few brands these days can get away with. Until this changes, the stark truth is that no other brand offers a one-stop shop to satisfy the difficult-to-dress demographic aged between nine and 15.

"I'm too young to fit womenswear, and too old to want childrenswear," summarises Lizzy, who is 12. "I know Brandy is problematic, but so is getting dressed." For Lizzy, and thousands like her, Brandy is a phase that she'll grow out of. Whatever her ethics, its sizing will make sure of it.

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MICHAEL NAGLE/BLOOMBERG

Ultra-woke and obsessed: 'The New York Times' is now one of the world's most anti-Britain newspapers

ZOE STRIMPEL

'The New York Times' and its fellow woke dogmatists have completely lost the plot



Rushing in to rain on everyone's parade, they have missed the true significance of this period of mourning for the late Queen

The queue to see the late Queen lying in state fascinated me even before it went live. Where had all this lying-in-state-specific signage come from? How had such a perfectly formed system – colour-coded wristbands, big screens and digital queue trackers – materialised so quickly? Where had the armies of queue wardens and stewards and all those portable conveniences come from at such short notice?

Having admired it from afar, on Thursday, I decided to go down and have a look at the very front of the queue. I peered closely at the faces of those whose patience had paid off – for whom the awe-inspiring catafalque was within reach, and began to work my way back.

Having not shed a tear so far, I did finally well up watching Her Majesty's subjects process slowly and patiently – so patiently – towards Lambeth Bridge, the final hurdle. They were old, young, infirm, large, tiny, fat, thin. There were children, there were men wearing medals, there were women dressed from head to toe in Union Jacks.

However far back I went, the queue was consistent: it had no quibbles, it was prepared, and any discomfort was nothing to it. There was quiet, and laughter, and people just trying to focus on staying upright. They munched sandwiches and ate Kettle Chips and by Jove they made their way forward, wristbands aloft, into the light.

The queue has been a movingly and deeply British show of love, devotion and respect. Combined with the fascinating, momentous programme of official events sparked by Queen Elizabeth II's death – topped off by tomorrow's funeral, which the whole country will watch with the greatest interest and reverence – it is hard to understand how her passing could be seen as anything but a moment of grand, poignant, uplifting contemplation.

Except, of course, for the woke, who have once again rushed in to rain on everyone's parade. For them, ideology demands that the only way to look at events is through the prism of sneering, miserly identity politics.

The social-justice obsessed *New York Times*, now one of the world's most anti-Britain newspapers, was, of course, front of the pack. While Her Majesty's actual subjects largely view her death with straightforward sorrow and share an instinctive understanding of the monarchy's extraordinary importance, the American "paper of note" preferred to look at how King Charles had turned "his royal estate into a billion-dollar portfolio" and admonish us about empire.

Other prominent bits of analysis included "With the Queen's death, Britain must let go of its imperial delusions"; "Queen Elizabeth's Death Renews British Empire Debate in Africa" and the most mouth-pinching of all, "Mourn the Queen, not her Empire," by Harvard history professor Maya Jasanoff, who managed to take something of intricate enormity and gravity – constitutional and emotional – and reduce it to one, ugly thing: bloodthirsty racism.

The late Queen, Jasanoff wrote, "put a stolid traditionalist front over decades of violent upheaval. As such, the Queen helped obscure a bloody history of decolonisation whose proportions and legacies have yet to be adequately acknowledged." Poof. All that ancient beauty, subtlety and meaning reduced in a flash to a "bloody history of decolonisation" that *The New York Times* says we have not "adequately acknowledged".

The need to make everything to do with Britain about racism and the badness of empire has, predictably, yielded a bland, constricted worldview, reminiscent to me of the mandated "Marxist-Leninist" adulation of the Soviet bloc. It is striking that, whereas a vast range of people can instantly access the beauty and extraordinary interest of this national moment, the ultra-woke can do nothing but return over and over to their one defining obsession.

It's not just elite America. Reading *The Guardian's* attempt at harnessing a global "panel" of reactions to the Queen's death, I guffawed. Every single contribution finger-wagged about Britain's imperial history. The Jamaican contributor, UN development programme goodwill ambassador Lisa Hanna, wrote that our approach to our past is "misaligned with the current expectations of its former colonies". Lawrence Hill said Canada is just as bad as Britain when it comes to racist sins of the past, and "the crimes of the empire could not have happened without the collusion of Canadians".

But the American contributor, Kevin Powell, took the biscuit, writing of the moment he "came to see the Royal family for who they truly were – mega-wealthy and mega-privileged beneficiaries and archaic symbols of the very same colonialism, slavery and White supremacy that had wreaked damage on poor people and poor people of colour globally for centuries". Right then!

Of course, nobody but a fool would deny that Britain has a chequered imperial past, freighted with complex associations for those in the Commonwealth and beyond. Nor is it anything but obvious – no doubt to every last person in the queue – that monarchy is synonymous with all sorts of values and traits – hierarchy, hereditary succession, and the like – that are no longer found elsewhere in society. There are countless opportunities to have debates about all this, and boy are they being had, as a quick glance at any history department in the land makes clear.

For the woke, ideology demands that the only way to look at events is through the prism of sneering, miserly identity politics

But that is not what the ceremonial period of mourning for the Queen, or King Charles's accession is about. This is a time of incredible rarity, fascination and collective camaraderie, of which the queue to see Her Majesty lying in state offers moving proof.

Indeed, ordinary people in Britain and beyond understand perfectly what is at hand. It is the woke snobs turning this moment into the ashes of punitive dogma who don't.

The queue is the antidote to atomised Britain

Having gone to look at the queue on Thursday, on Friday I decided to join it. I felt aghast at what we were undertaking as we snaked through the crowd-control pens at the start. I hate queues. I will do almost anything to avoid them. But with a queue like this, there could be no barging, no manipulation, no ploys – and no impatience. The only way to survive was to hunker down, and I wanted to prove to myself I could do it.

It was easier than I feared. Within minutes, we made our first friend, a retired teacher and now tutor called Alexandra, and a clutch of ladies in front, whom I had assumed had come in a group, soon turned out to be on their own and eager for camaraderie. So Sue, Anne and Dawn joined the queue family.



Waiting in line: a place for old-fashioned camaraderie and new friendships

It was impressive that people like Sue and Anne had come on their own. But their wisdom in doing so became clear. Feeling part of a wider group has been identified as a substantial, if secondary, reason for joining the queue. With our atomised lives, in which even the elderly are forced to live through their screens, an experience like this one was, frankly, a wonderful day out.

Sue, Anne, Alex and Dawn were plucky. They were jolly well going to see Her Majesty lying in state. But as more experienced queuers than me (Alex had done the Queen Mother's lying-in-state; Anne had already been to Windsor and got some amazing close-ups of the Fab Four), perhaps they also knew they wouldn't be alone in the crowd and that it would be a day of friend-making and shared information. Hours after joining, we were all sharing scraps from depleted supermarkets along the route, buying each other tea, and waving at each other after loo breaks so whoever had gone could rejoin – and ringing each other where needed, with newly swapped numbers.

It was a marathon, of the kind where you eat junk food nonstop and don't run. Almost 14 hours to the dot after we began, we shuffled in exhausted awe past the late Queen's coffin. Westminster Hall was breathtaking, the atmosphere sacred, and I couldn't take my eyes off the crown, sceptre and orb, whose jewels sizzled with light and sparkle. The scene faded all too fast; the queue family – if my phone this morning is anything to go by – less so.

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This man wants to give $1,000 to every poor person on earth. Could it really work?

Rory Stewart, the former cabinet minister, reveals his new masterplan to *Will Brown*



PATRICK MEINHARDT FOR THE TELEGRAPH; NURPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES



Changing charity: Rory Stewart, main, and with residents of Mgandamwani village

For decades, the world has tried to end extreme poverty in Africa. Tragically, almost nothing seems to have worked.

More than a trillion aid dollars have been pumped into the continent since the 1960s. Famines have been averted. Hundreds of millions have been vaccinated. Yet the total number of Africans surviving on less than $1.90 a day has hovered around 400 million for about 40 years.

But could the solution have been staring us in the face the whole time? Could we get rid of the white United Nations 4x4s, arcane development plans dreamt up in Western capitals and concentrate on one thing: giving poor people money?

Rory Stewart, former UK cabinet minister and one-time Conservative leadership contender, thinks so. He has just been appointed president of GiveDirectly, an American NGO trying to shake the foundations of the aid world.

"Instead of giving a tent to people in poverty, which they sell for cash to buy what they want, or moving wheat halfway around the world from a farmer in Idaho, we're actually letting people determine what their needs are," Mr Stewart tells *The Telegraph* in Kilifi, a drought-stricken county in southern Kenya.

GiveDirectly's pitch is as radical as it is simple. They argue that if you give every family in an impoverished community a no-strings-attached one-time payment of $1,000 (£865) – roughly four days' salary for a typical UN staffer – you can transform their lives for the better in almost every way.

"Cash has this magic multiplier effect. It gets the general economy going," says Stewart. "It allows people to buy a roof for their homes.

"A cash donation lets people get a cow which produces milk and gives calcium to their kids. It lets them set up a small business or get their children through school. It improves their diets, so they'll have fewer sick days," he says.

There is a quiet revolution couched in his words. For half a century, the aid industry has revolved around legions of Western expatriates, with fancy master's degrees, parachuting into far-off places to tell locals what they need to get out of poverty.

UN agencies and NGOs will sometimes play dazzling accounting tricks that give the illusion that most of their donations go directly to those in need. But ineffective projects, huge overheads for contractors and dodgy officials often suck up resources, leading to widespread disillusionment among rank-and-file humanitarians.

Stewart, who was Secretary of State for International Development in 2019, is damning in his criticism of patronising attitudes in the aid sector.

"We dress it up in fancy words like best practice and capacity building. But basically, 'best practice' means we know what's best. And 'capacity building' means we need to teach you what to do. And then if you fail, we say there's a lack of 'political will'. In other words, you're lazy," he says.

"At some level, these are fancy jargon words for suggesting that communities in Asia or Africa are ignorant, unskilled and idle."

By effectively cutting out the highly paid middlemen, GiveDirectly claims that its work has a better bang for its buck than almost any other intervention. But many national governments are cautious of the idea. The international community has already been sold many dud silver bullets and giving out cash to poor people is not a popular political decision. Could this really work on a grand scale?

Five years ago, almost everyone in the Mgandamwani village lived in fragile, leaky huts. There was no electricity and women used to walk three hours a day to the nearest reservoir to get water.

Most men earn a pittance – £3.50 to £7 – working the occasional hard labour job in town.

Villagers say their lives transformed overnight when they received $1,000 on their mobile money accounts. They got local builders to get tin roofs, concrete floors, solar panels and lights so their children could read in the evening. Some young men went on training courses to become electricians or welders. Three middle-aged women – Kanze, Dama and Kadzo – pooled their cash together to lay water piping in the village for the first time.

"It's the genius of the market. It's very pure market economics," says Stewart excitedly after coming back from seeing a new herd of goats. "Most people in extreme poverty have spent their entire lives thinking about what they would do if they got a bit of money and they can get it much cheaper than we can."

Broader research backs up the improvements at Mgandamwani. A major study by academics at the Universities of California San Diego and Georgetown found that a simple $500 transfer reduced the child mortality rate by 70 per cent and improved child growth.

> 'Cash has this magic multiplier effect. It gets the general economy going'

A review of seven studies in Africa found that cash transfers reduced risky sexual behaviour, increased the use of antenatal care and increased the likelihood of having a nurse on site when a woman gave birth.

The villagers in Mgandamwani are all still brutally poor on a level almost unimaginable to anyone in Britain. But that's not how recipients see it.

"I spent all the money on my house," says Zawadi Kitsao, an illiterate woman who is probably much older than the 36 years written on her ID card. "Before, I didn't even have a door on my house for privacy. Now I have some dignity," she says as she walks around her newly constructed breeze block home.

One fear many critics of cash payments have is that men will end up spending the money on drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. While this happens in some isolated cases, researchers say this is a tired cliché and that most people seize the opportunity to change their lives for the better. But several broader problems remain. Most countries where GiveDirectly have been working are stable and relatively law-abiding. It is hard to see how the lean NGO can guarantee security for cash recipients in war-ravaged nations like South Sudan, where whole villages are sometimes taken hostage for the money stored on their digital mobile wallets.

The next problem is one of scale. Since the organisation was founded by a pair of PhD students at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2008, they have reached more than 300,000 households with large payments across Liberia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda.

Could the massive investment of liquid cash cause rampant inflation? The answer is not entirely clear, although Stewart cites economic modelling showing that you would need to dump about 20 per cent of GDP to have a serious impact on inflation.

Many aid workers still need to be convinced. But in some ways, it is easy to see why the simple idea of giving people cash has faced so much resistance.

"It's difficult. It's not just that people are selfish; it's psychological. People have dedicated their whole life to the idea that they have a unique set of knowledge and skills and that they are necessary to save people," says Stewart.

"If you have to confront the fact that actually the villagers have a better idea about what they need than you do, your whole life is called into question."

Move over Harry Styles – old rockers do fashion best

A new generation of stars are taking sartorial cues from classic rock stars, says *Stephen Doig*

Harry Styles fans at Madison Square Garden this week might be forgiven for thinking they'd wandered into a Rolling Stones show. In his skin-tight lycra and sequins, the Cheshire-born singer continued his ongoing homage to Mick Jagger.

"He's the coolest man on the planet," Styles has said of Jagger. Jagger later responded: "Harry just has a superficial resemblance to my younger self, which is fine – he can't help that. But he doesn't have a voice like mine or move on stage."

Styles isn't the only modern star emulating rockers of the past. A new breed – among them US actors Timothée Chalamet and Austin Butler – might think their renegade attitude

Their whippet-hipped posturing and gender-fluid flourishes have all been done before

to style marks them out as anarchic and original, but their whippet-hipped posturing and gender-fluid flourishes have all been done before.

At least Chalamet had the good grace to acknowledge this at the recent Venice Film Festival, where he posted a range of pictures of a young Keith Richards on Instagram.

But remember that the originals didn't have a stylist. They didn't "mood-board" a "look" before they went out. They threw on clothes that they'd picked up on the Kings Road or off the bedroom floor and it didn't matter whose they were.

Here are some examples of how the new generation are apeing the old.



RICHARD E AARON/REDFERNS; UNDERWOOD ARCHIVES/

Who wore it best? Young stars are emulating the fashion choices of their celebrity forebears

MICK JAGGER AND HARRY STYLES

Styles's hero worship continued at the Venice Film Festival. While dressed exclusively in Gucci (Styles launches a collaboration with the house next month) his outfits were more Jagger than Jagger himself. The flares, the broad-shouldered and long tailored jackets and the shirts with elongated collars: all called to mind Jagger's 1970s high-jinks. The connection goes further. Tailor Edward Sexton, the great statesman of Savile Row, has long created suits for Mick (and Bianca) Jagger. Styles has similarly fallen for Sexton's uniquely proportioned suits and has worn them on tour.

KEITH RICHARDS AND TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET

Reed-thin, with a shock of dark curls and a playful approach to dressing; Chalamet might be set to play Bob Dylan in a new biopic, but it's Keith Richards he most commonly channels. The Stones were trailblazers for gender-fluid dressing long before the phrase was coined, and Chalamet follows suit in his approach to style; a recent backless scarlet jumpsuit – the ensemble inspired by Richards – as well as sparkly jackets worn topless and cinched-waist suits with boots.

ELVIS PRESLEY AND AUSTIN BUTLER

Butler recently played Elvis in Baz Lurhman's biopic, but what started as a costume has morphed into a style. The 31-year-old channels the earlier, more minimalist era of Elvis's wardrobe, as opposed to the bedazzled look of the latter period of the King's life. But, with his louche monochrome suits and 1950s-style shirts with camp collars, it's a pleasingly refreshing take.

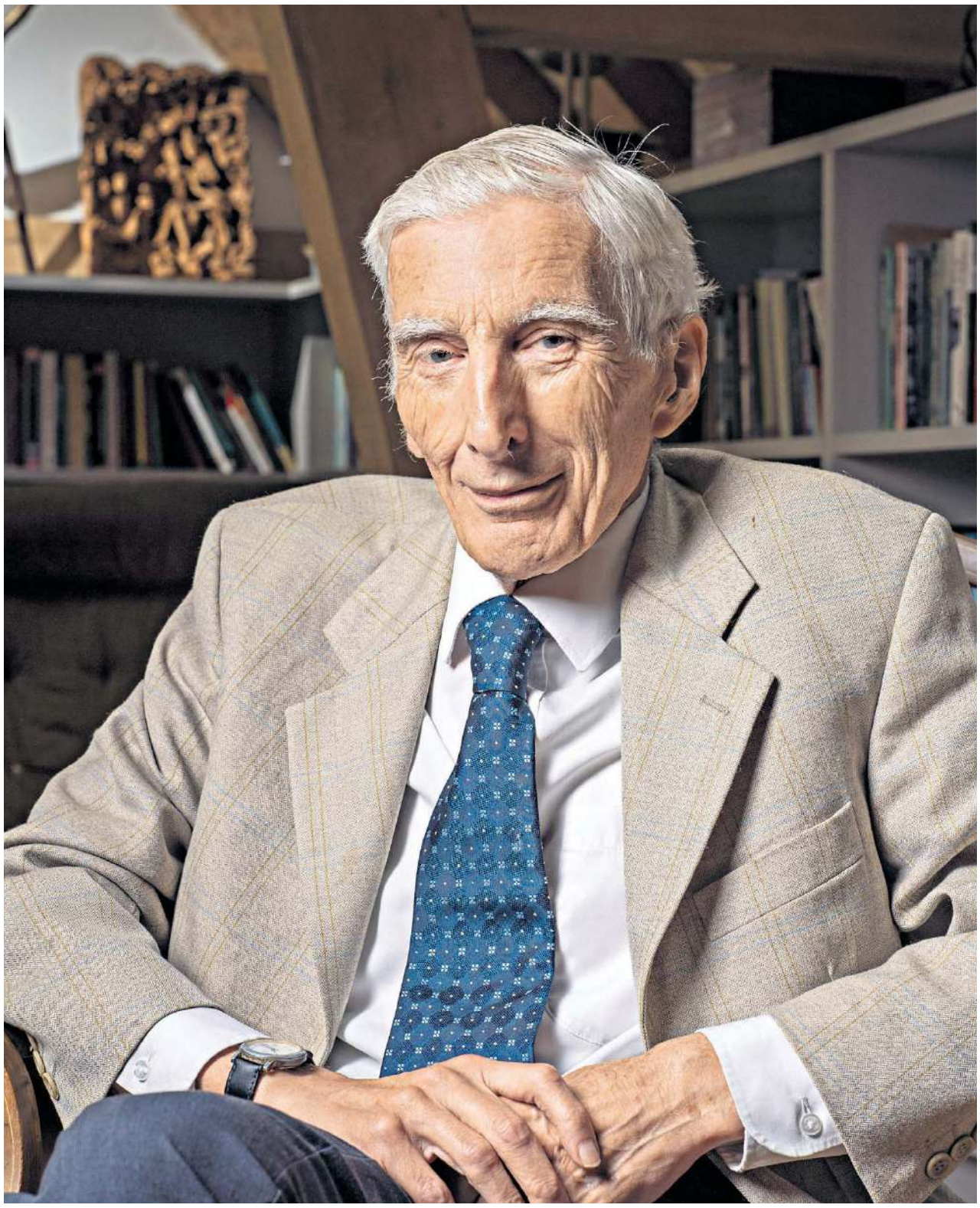
PAUL MCCARTNEY AND JONATHAN BAILEY (NOT PICTURED)

With those chocolate-brown eyes and tousled hair, Bridgerton star Jonathan Bailey calls to mind a young Paul McCartney. Like the former Beatle, who's been referenced a great deal on catwalks recently, the star enjoys chunky knitwear and soft-fitting suits. Macca was an unlikely style icon of the 1970s and 1980s thanks to his sweaters, elbow-patched corduroy jackets and less obvious approach to dressing that is still inspiring young men today.

ELTON JOHN AND OLLY ALEXANDER

It's endearing to see the 32-year-old Alexander pay homage to his friend and collaborator Sir Elton. The feathery plumage mirrors the latter's iconic 1970s stage costumery by Bob Mackie, as well as his theatrical capes and graphic, patterned suits. In return, Sir Elton has found a new lease of fashion life in his 70s, pivoting from the Versace silks of the 90s to logo-mania Gucci, most recently sparkly double G-motif shorts and a T-shirt for a casual potter on holiday. Sometimes, intergenerational inspiration works both ways.

The Sunday Interview



ANDREW CROWLEY FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Martin Rees

‘I see humans evolving into electronic entities’

The Astronomer Royal and evangelical scientist tells *Harry de Quetteville* how biotech will shape our future and about his (minor) falling out with King Charles

To hear one of the nation’s most eminent scientists rage about the injustice of the Nobel Prize is to suspect a case of sour grapes. But when astrophysicist and Astronomer Royal Martin Rees cries foul he is not thinking of himself. Lord Rees, OM, 80, has in any case been amply honoured. And despite a career spent investigating the shape of the universe, the birth of stars, the formation of galaxies and the power of black holes, he considers that he hasn’t made “any really major and lasting individual scientific contributions”.

About the late Sir Tom Kibble’s achievements, on the other hand, he displays no such modesty. You will have heard of Sir Tom, and the subatomic particle named after him, the Kibble boson? No? That’s because it was named the Higgs boson. And it was theoretical physicist Peter Higgs who was awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize for his breakthroughs on the subject. But according to Lord Rees, six people played key roles, of whom Kibble was “the one with the strongest and most sustained lifetime achievement”. Yet when the Nobel was handed out in 2013, Kibble was not honoured. “A manifest injustice,” notes Lord Rees. Kibble died three years later.

More than the specific insult, however, what upsets Lord Rees is the Nobel’s reduction of the scientific process to a simplistic great man (or more rarely celebrated great woman) theory, in which giant brains have “eureka” moments that lead us to some new understanding. “That gives a misleading impression of how ‘big science’ actually advances,” he says.

And that is a problem because, as he writes in his new book, *If Science is to Save Us*, we live in a century in which science and technology will profoundly shape – and could end – human existence on this planet. The Covid pandemic, in which the advice and opinion of scientists kept entire populations confined to their houses, was just a taster, he thinks. So never more than now, in an era of intense scepticism – even hostility – about “elites” and “experts”, Lord Rees insists it is imperative that we examine and understand the interplay of political power and scientific enquiry, and its impact on us, the public.

He was created Astronomer Royal in

Instead of a royal reprimand, the result was a ‘lovely lunch’ at St James’s Palace

1995, but the title was first conferred in 1675 upon John Flamsteed and subsequent directors of the Royal Observatory Greenwich. When the observatory was turned into a museum in the 1970s it became an honorary title. Despite its royal association, Lord Rees says he met the late Queen only rarely, and then largely because as a member of the Order of Merit, whose 24 notables – including David Attenborough and Simon Rattle – had lunch with the Queen “every 18 months or so” at Windsor or Buckingham Palace.

“The most stable democracies in Europe are all monarchies,” he muses, acknowledging the stability too, that royal patronage has brought the institutions he loves so much. “We are now learning how much we did owe to the Queen,” he adds. The late Duke of Edinburgh was Chancellor of Cambridge University until 2011, and Lord Rees has met King Charles III several times when he visited in support of the Cambridge Trust, which supports Commonwealth students with bursaries. “He was very good on those occasions,” says Lord Rees.

Their only minor falling out came when the then-Prince of Wales gave Radio 4’s “Thought for the Day” on the first day of 2000. When the Prince suggested that science, which “we are tempted to believe… knows nearly all the answers” was forgetting an animating sense of wonder and mystery, Lord Rees wrote to him “to say I thought he’d been a little unfair”. Instead of a royal reprimand, however, the result was a “lovely lunch” between the two men at St James’s Palace.

This is why he is so keen to demystify science and to emphasise that scientists, far from being omniscient authorities, instead “focus on a tiny piece of the puzzle” and are even “depressingly” uniformed outside their specialisms. We should not forget, he notes, that there is a “boundary between issues where scientists deserve special attention as ‘experts’, and those that are ethical rather than technical, where they speak, along with the rest of us, only as citizens”. Today on issues like Covid 19, he says the boundary is “blurred”.

“In an emergency,” he says, settling into his armchair in his study at Trinity College, Cambridge, “you listen to the experts. But the experts have to recognise that politicians must take into account the politics, the ethics and economics as well”. Lord Rees is firmly of the view that in politics, scientists should be on tap, not on top. So does he sympathise with Rishi Sunak’s recent take that it was essentially a mistake to elevate scientists, notably on the Sage advisory group, to lockdown arbiters?

“No, I’m not sure he’s right” says Lord Rees. “Because there were cases when the scientists made recommendations which it would have been better to follow more urgently.” He describes “delays in following advice” to impose the initial 2020 lockdown, as well as reluctance imposing restrictions on travel from India to limit the Delta variant’s spread in 2021, as “clear errors in retrospect”. “So I think what [Sunak] said was a bit unfair.”

Indeed, Lord Rees notes, painting Sage as some shadowy, dicatorial force, is just another example of the popular misunderstanding of how science works. Initially closed and secret, he explains, Sage and its membership, “quickly opened up, enabling dozens of independent voices to participate in the discussion, and sometimes to offer vehement criticism” – just as scientists publishing papers can receive feedback from their peers.

The fact that David King, a former Chief Scientific Advisor, even set up the rival “independent Sage” is, to Lord Rees, proof not that the Covid system failed, but that it worked; an exemplar of the scientific process. As was the fact that “scientific advice in the early weeks of the Covid 19 pandemic wasn’t always clear. But opinion gradually converged.” Not because of groupthink, but because that’s where the evidence pointed.

Hypothesis, disagreement, refinement – this is the operation of science in action, according to Lord Rees, of the “organised scepticism” that positively defines and stimulates the process of discovery. But he draws a contrast with the “extreme scepticism” of “deniers” – whether anti-vaxxers or climate change rebutters – stemming from “ideological bias” rather than a healthy desire to improve knowledge. “In democratic nations,” he says, “[their] resistance may impede effective action.”

Engagingly, he does not wring his hands about this, nor thumb his nose from on high. Instead, he thinks practically about how to shape public discourse for the good. The evidence suggests to him that nowadays a tiny number of “influencers” can change everything. Not social media “influencers” but rather people who can reach huge popular audiences and animate them about unsexy, long-term problems. He names the Pope, Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough and Bill Gates. On long-term climate and health issues, he says “all in different ways have had great influence”.

And they are needed. “Unless a crisis is imminent,” he says, “it’s hard to focus ministerial attention onto even the most important long-term policy issues.” On this list, Lord Rees puts energy supply, securing the internet, supply chains for essential goods and resilience against extreme weather. Rather than having too much influence on politicians, scientific advisors hardly have any clout on these issues. “I know because I know some of them,” he says.

When public debate gets poisoned, Lord Rees suggests, everyone loses. The botched introduction of GM crops in Europe two decades ago saw them dubbed “Frankenfoods” and banned, for example, even though they have been usefully grown and consumed in the US ever since. By contrast, the UK has a balanced regulatory policy on stem cell research – prohibited to public funding in America – that is regarded as world-leading. Lord Rees regards it as an example of scientific advance, politics and public opinion being successfully balanced for the long-term benefit of all.

Yet in our age of ever-more fractious “culture wars”, balancing competing interests even in the short term is tricky enough. How much harder then, are the intergenerational trade-offs that come with long-term decisions? Or as Lord Rees puts it: “How much should we sacrifice now to ensure that the world is no worse when our grandchildren grow old?” Even on climate change, about which he is very concerned, “those advising the government, themselves have a range of opinions on what the best policies should be”. And even there, “they should express these views as citizens and not claim special weight for them”.

It’s at this point that I go back a bit in our conversation and ask him about the Pope: what is Martin Rees, secular scientist, explainer of creation rather than creationist, doing saluting the Pope’s contribution to science? It turns out that he is a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and its meetings require him to travel to the Vatican, where he stays in the Santa Marta residence that the Pope inhabits and they occasionally bump into each other. The fact that Lord Rees “can’t believe in the resurrection or any of that,” is no bar to his membership. He is there because he is spreading his own good word – that of the evangelical scientist.

And it works. In 2015, academy advice on the environment contributed to Pope Francis’s second Encyclical, *Laudato si’*, a statement that swayed hundreds of millions of Catholics in Latin America, Africa and East Asia to pressurise their leaders to sign up to the Paris Agreement in December 2015.

Lord Rees admits he appreciates the music and beauty of the chapel at Trinity and describes himself as a “practising, non-believing Christian”, content to sing hymns about a God whose existence he does not accept, valuing them as a glorious ritual.

Cambridge has been his home ever since he was appointed Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy in 1973, aged just 30. It was an appointment that, for all Lord Rees’s modesty, underscores his academic brilliance. His parents were both teachers, setting up a school in the midst of the war on the south Shropshire border with Wales, where Lord Rees had “a happy childhood, though a rather lonely one”.

From there he went to Shrewsbury School and Cambridge, taking maths – a choice, he admits, “motivated as much by being bad at foreign languages as by enthusiasm for the sciences”. Then, as now, he bridled against the narrowness of English education. He thinks a broader baccalaureate would be better than A-levels, and US-style major and minor studies better than single university degrees. Breadth, he says, is especially important today so that schoolchildren do not give up on science and can develop a “feel” for it that will stop them being “bamboozled by propaganda and bad statistics”.

Lord Rees refers to poor UK performance in educational league tables as “a depressing augury for the West’s future”, blaming the lack of “good science teachers”. He describes himself as “Old Left”, adding, “I think you need higher taxes and better public services. I guess you’d call me part of the public sector establishment.” He is certainly no Liz Truss fan.

But just as his appreciation of ritual overcomes his atheism, so, too, his politics do not prevent him admitting the allure of the private sector. He sits on the board of a venture capital firm in Cambridge, and laments that the investment in UK start-ups does not match that in Silicon Valley. He admires the “revolving door” that shuttles staff between private enterprise and government in the US, seeding ideas between the two, and wishes it was replicated in the much more siloed system here.

The balance of public and private also animates him when it comes to manned spaceflight. He is excited by the prospect of humans venturing into that great beyond which he has spent his lifetime studying. However, he thinks it is madness that Nasa is spending many billions doing it. Leave it to adventurous plutocrats such as Elon Musk, “a 21st-century Brunel”, or Jeff Bezos, he argues. He reckons Nasa’s Artemis programme, which has been repeatedly delayed, is “very expensive and probably mismanaged”.

Ultimately, he says, that’s because “the American public won’t accept imposing high risks on publicly-funded astronauts”, given that “human spaceflight will just be an expensive spectator sport of no practical use”. The result will be a costly project, bloated by endless safety measures. By contrast, “we would cheer on the private adventurer” having a crack at the Red Planet. So might Mars provide a lifeboat – a Planet B as some describe it – to a humankind which has wrecked Earth? The answer is an emphatic no. “It’s a dangerous illusion,” he says. The process of terraforming Mars, or making it Earthlike, and so habitable for billions, “is a doddle compared to dealing with climate change”.

Not that Lord Rees, author in 2003 of *Our Final Century: Will the Human Race Survive the Twenty-first Century*, and co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, thinks climate change is the only risk we face. “Pandemics obviously,” he says. But he also worries about a population explosion trapping Africa in poverty, with the agriculture required to feed everyone destroying both the environment and biodiversity.

His main concerns, though, are misuses of bio- and cyber-technology – weaponisation of viruses and hacking into nuclear command computers for example – which “are powerful enough to jeopardise the very survival of our civilisation”. In a hyper-connected “global village”, Lord Rees says, any lone “village idiot” can threaten us all. As a result, “we’re

‘We are more likely to suffer from human stupidity than artificial intelligence’

going to have to worry very much about the trade-off between privacy, security and freedom. And I do think that privacy is going to have to go. Malefactors have a global range, so there’s got to be some intrusive surveillance in order to reduce this kind of risk.” What that looks like, Lord Rees doesn’t say. But others think a “panopticon world” of constant monitoring is our fate. “We do have a bumpy road through the century,” he says. Though even in the event of an apocalyptic disaster, there would be survivors. “We wouldn’t wipe ourselves out,” he says..

Nonetheless, ever-fired by his curiosity, he is no knee-jerk doomster and downplays the risk of runaway AI. “That’s nonsense,” he scoffs. “We’re more likely to suffer from human stupidity than artificial intelligence.” He is also comforted by cosmological appreciation of the vastness of that great healer – time. The Earth, he points out, is 45 million centuries old. The Sun will last another 60 million centuries. Human evolution has only just begun. “It won’t be humans who witness the Sun’s demise: it will be beings more different from us than we are from a bug. We can’t conceive what powers they might have.”

Alien life, too, is a possibility with which he still demonstrates childlike fascination. There, it turns out, we are on the cusp of a big breakthrough. Not *the* big breakthrough; no ET moment. In the next decade a probe will learn whether basic living cells ever existed on Jupiter’s moon Europa. If life started independently in two places in our relatively tiny solar system, the theory goes, then the universe, with its countless billions of planets, must be teeming with life. Currently, we don’t even know how life began on Earth. So there remains the possibility that it might have been an unrepeatable fluke. We might be alone.

Ultimately, though, Lord Rees says the aliens might be us. “Long term, I don’t think humans will exist, they’ll evolve or become something quite different, something digital,” he says. According to him, our organic bodies will be genetically modified or combined with computer components – “secular intelligent design” as he calls it. For example, settlers on Mars could, conceivably, be genetically tweaked to adapt to their new environment. “It could happen in a few hundred years,” notes Lord Rees. And that’s a mere blink of a cosmologist’s eye.

“If that leads to a transition from flesh and blood to electronic entities, which it might do,” he continues, his brain racing through gigantic concepts, “they wouldn’t need an atmosphere. And if these cyborgs are near-immortal, they wouldn’t be daunted by the vast times required to travel to other solar systems.” My head is spinning by now. But Lord Rees is off again. “The question would then be whether these digital entities have consciousness,” he adds. “Would they be capable of appreciating the mystery and wonder of the universe?” It is a question which he himself, smiling almost mischievously, has no need to answer.

‘If Science is to Save us’ by Martin Rees (Polity) is published on September 23

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Is there still hope for new British musicals?

Marianka Swain asks industry big-hitters what chance fresh creations have these days against classic revivals and film adaptations



PAMELA RAITH PHOTOGRAPHY; JOHAN PERSSON; DANNY KAAN

Shine on: above, *Six*; below, Reuben Joseph as Alexander Hamilton; below right, *South Pacific*



Nothing gives me more pleasure than being part of the audience for a new musical: a show that soars above all expectations, wrings out your emotions, and sends you home humming its indelible tunes. Traditionally the territory of the Americans, since the 1970s the Brits have more than held their own, thanks to the rise of Andrew Lloyd Webber. In the 21st century, successes such as *Matilda* and the world-conquering *Six* have proved this country is still a force to be reckoned with. Yet the theatre landscape is increasingly dominated by jukebox shows and American stalwarts. Is there still hope for the new, original musical, or are there too many roadblocks in its path, from the cost of living crisis through to cultural sensitivities and nervous producers preferring safe bets?

The latter is definitely an issue, believes Claude-Michel Schönberg, the French composer who shot to fame following the London premiere of *Les Misérables* in 1985 (and scored another hit here with *Miss Saigon*). "Of course, the dream of any producer is [that] the audience knows the story in advance, the music, everything." Of the jukebox musical, he says: "The compilation show, the first one was OK because it was a brand new format – *Mamma Mia!*. But to have everybody trying to use that entrance now, I'm not watching it any more. I know very talented young people who are passionate about musicals trying to write shows, and it's so difficult for them."

We are also awash with movies-turned-musicals – another boon for cautious producers (see the slavishly copied likes of *Dirty Dancing* or *Beauty and the Beast*). Still, creative gems can emerge from that transfer. One of those, *Identical*, a musical adaptation of *The Parent Trap* by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, received a five-star review from *The Telegraph* when it premiered in Nottingham in August. Such productions encourage other new writers, believe this leading British team – unlike when they were starting out in the 1980s. "There weren't many torch-bearers to follow, other than Tim [Rice] and Andrew [Lloyd Webber]," recalls Drewe.

The duo toiled away for several years before their show *Honk!* surprised everyone by winning the 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical over juggernauts like *The Lion King* and *Mamma Mia!*. That led to their big commercial break: writing additional material for the stage version of *Mary Poppins*. "It was only when we kicked Simba's butt that Disney said 'OK, these boys are worth giving a shot,'" laughs Drewe.

Now, the pair are in a position to nurture others. Stiles and Drewe run a biennial mentorship award via Mercury Musical Developments (MMD), the organisation they cofounded to help develop new musicals through workshops and showcases. The 2021 mentorship prize winner was the blindingly multi-talented Omar Baroud. He's already an established actor, currently appearing in the West End production of *Cabaret* and Disney+ series *Wedding Season*, but is now emerging as a writer too with his first musical, *After Elijah*. "It's about a mixed-race family dealing with grief after losing their son," he tells me. "They don't realise his boyfriend has been living with them for the past year. It's their final night in this house and everything comes out." Baroud, who grew up in a Middle Eastern-Caribbean family, has always been passionate about musicals. "But I didn't see people who looked like me on stage."

It's evident during our conversation how much the mentorship means to him; writing can be a lonely business, and it often takes years to develop a new show. Baroud got a staged reading of *After Elijah* thanks to his prize win, and a song from it appears in tonight's star-studded fundraiser *Regenerate: Lost Songs from the Musicals*, which also features tracks from Schönberg and Stiles and Drewe. Proceeds go towards new writers presenting their work at showcase BEAM2023.

The international landscape for musicals was revolutionised five years ago with the arrival of Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-hop musical *Hamilton*. It exploded the way we tell stories, and became a phenomenon well beyond theatre. Is there now pressure on writers to match up to *Hamilton*'s utopian example, or, in formal terms, to reinvent the wheel – again? Quite the opposite, says Schönberg. "It's not out of the blue. Lin told me that [*Hamilton* is] coming from tradition, in particular *Les Misérables*." So while the rap element might be new, *Hamilton* is actually building on what's come before. "You're adding a stone to the monument."

Yet there remains a strong argument for continuing to stage older musicals – even those with "problematic" elements. Leicester Curve has emerged as a shrewd champion of classic shows, like *A Chorus Line*; *42nd Street* opens there next summer. And I was hugely impressed with how the recent Chichester Festival Theatre revival nimbly negotiated Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, demonstrating that the 1949 show was already radical in its anti-racism message. Conversely, some recent productions have made such drastic updates that they've completely betrayed the original shows – *Carousel* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre comes unhappily to mind.

But grappling with these great works is inarguably valuable. As Baroud says: "Conversation is always better than instant shutdown."

In terms of making more space for new musicals, the problem is often logistical: more venues staging emerging work, more financial backing. Musicals are an expensive business; it's twice as hard when the subject matter, creators, or both are unknown. Add to that our current cost of living crisis, with high energy bills looming this winter. Various arts organisations have signed an open letter urging the Prime Minister to extend Theatre Tax Relief for at least a year, and further measures may be required to keep a still-recovering sector afloat. We don't want to see another rise in ticket prices, which already exclude many; the highest price in the West End jumped to £140.85 in 2022.

But Drewe is encouraged by the amount of new musical writing, and that "in recent years, [London's] fringe theatre has increased in popularity and in professionalism. Plus there are regional powerhouses like Sheffield and Chichester". It's part of the process, as Schönberg puts it: "Until you have an audience, you don't know if it's a s----y little car or a Ferrari."

Of course, there are tough times ahead. The news that *The Phantom of the Opera* will close on Broadway in February after 35 years (a victim of post-pandemic audience fluctuations) may be a sign of things to come. But there is still a healthy appetite for the genre among the British public. A new magazine, *Musicals*, is launching in October, timed to coincide with the UK holding its first ever dedicated fan convention, Musical Con, at the Excel. This autumn will see a few new British musicals premiering, several scored by pop stars: *The Time Traveller's Wife* (music by Joss Stone) in Chester, *Local Hero* (Mark Knopfler) at Chichester, and *Tammy Faye* (Elton John) at London's Almeida Theatre. It's worth noting these follow the trend towards adaptations of existing properties, rather than being purely original.

> 'Until you have an audience, you don't know if it's a s----y little car or a Ferrari'



So how do we now compare to America? Drewe observes there are subscription seasons at American regional venues like the North Shore Music theatre in Massachusetts, which has staged several of their musicals. You book for the whole season and get golden oldies, such as *My Fair Lady*, plus a brand-new show. "That's hugely beneficial to us as writers, and it gives the audience a sense of ownership: they're part of the genesis of a show that's going places." But he thinks amateur theatre in Britain will skyrocket, since it's a cheaper way of staging and seeing shows – and new musicals (without expensive royalties) could be an asset there.

Ultimately, we need that space for creators to experiment, with proper audiences and thorough critical scrutiny, if we want to see the genre flourish in this country. The onus is on theatre owners and producers to take that gamble (after all, it's a future investment), and on audiences to support them. Then you might just stumble upon the next big thing.

'Regenerate: Lost Songs from the Musicals' will be live-streamed tonight; mercurymusicals.com

'Sensation': when British art looked like the future

The show grabbed headlines and shocked the nation – but, 25 years on, what are we to make of it? By *Alastair Sooke*



PA

Poor lamb: a visitor to the *Sensation* exhibition in 1997 scrutinises Damien Hirst's *Away from the Flock* (1994)

Historians of modern art tend to get a little giddy about certain incendiary exhibitions – such as the first Impressionist show of 1874 – that changed the course of their subject. For followers of British art of a certain vintage, *Sensation*, which opened at the Royal Academy of Arts 25 years ago today, belongs to this notorious lineage.

Featuring 42 of the so-called Young British Artists (YBAs) collected by the advertising executive Charles Saatchi, it certainly – as its title promised – provoked an intense reaction. Here were 110 controversial artworks by a new generation of raucous, on-the-make self-starters, who, thanks to prolific coverage in the tabloids, were already in the public eye.

Damien Hirst's tiger shark suspended in a tank of turquoise formaldehyde and Tracey Emin's appliquéd tent, *Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995* (1995), were both on display. So was Sarah Lucas's *Two Fried Eggs and a Kebab* (1992), arranged on a table like a crude pictogram of the female form: a grungy, throwaway gesture, deliberately debasing Western art's grand tradition of the nude into a sort of last-orders odalisque.

And they weren't even the most "shocking". Remember Ron Mueck's *Dead Dad* (1996-97), a terrifyingly realistic silicone sculpture of a naked paternal corpse? Or Jake and Dinos Chapman's mutant mannequins, with penises for noses and anuses instead of mouths? Perhaps you'd rather not.

At the time, though, the most upsetting piece was Marcus Harvey's vast monochrome canvas of the child-killer Myra Hindley, painted using an infant's handprints. As artist Martin Maloney wrote, cleverly if callously, in the catalogue, it "put pain into Pointillism". "It's an Artrage" screamed *The Sun*. Protesters pelted it with ink and eggs.

Not that this deterred the crowds. During the exhibition's London run, more than 300,000 people thronged Burlington House to see it. The show then travelled to Berlin and New York. Once considered rather parochial, contemporary British art was generating genuine international excitement – and distress. In New York, Chris Ofili's *The Holy Virgin Mary* (1996) – a surprisingly beautiful (I think) riff on a Byzantine icon, depicting Jesus's mother as a black woman with a resin-covered blob of elephant dung for a breast – caused a stink.

Of course, *Sensation*'s sulphurous whiff was its selling point. When I went to university in 1999, its catalogue – with its lewd, arresting cover, reproducing the exhibition poster featuring an outstretched tongue almost touching the tip of an iron – was a must-have for any snotty poser who wished to appear worldly-wise. (Alright, including me.)

A quarter of a century later, what should we make of the show? Its curator, Norman Rosenthal, who recalls that he had to pull it together "very quickly", looks back at it "fondly". Although, at the time, the Academy took some flak for promoting his collection, Saatchi was, according to Rosenthal, then "the greatest collector on Earth". "Whatever you say, Damien can never be written out of history," he notes. Emin, too, "has turned into one of the great painters of the age."

Others feel more ambivalent, including Ikon Gallery's outgoing director, Jonathan Watkins. During the 1990s, he was an influential curator in London, but always "resisted" the art that Saatchi was pushing. "When you break it down, and think, 'What was that YBA thing?', actually, it wasn't that good," he says. "It was very photogenic and marketed really effectively. But it was too obvious and not as edgy as it seemed." By the time of the exhibition, he points out, the YBAs "had been brought into the establishment. All of a sudden, they were mainstream".

Artist Gavin Turk, who was represented at Sensation by *Pop* (1993), a waxwork of himself as Sid Vicious in the pose of Andy Warhol's Elvis Presley, agrees that the exhibition was both zenith and death knell for the YBA moment. "It's curious," he says. "I always felt that *Sensation* was the end of something rather than the beginning. The idea was already: now we need to move onto something else."

And people did. Today, although several names from *Sensation* retain credibility (last year, for instance, Emin exhibited at Oslo's Munch Museum), many of the YBAs, and everything they represent, are lost in a limbo of indifference. Even Turk, now in his mid-50s, who has a new exhibition opening in Cambridge next month, begins our conversation by observing, only semi-ironically, "I feel totally old and out of fashion." For him, the lesson of *Sensation* is that "we're living in a different cultural moment. The ideologies and paradigms of 25 years ago, which we took for granted, aren't relevant anymore."

Certainly, rifling through Sensation's catalogue today makes me feel more wistful than excited. I once felt so sure that Britart was the future. But now? Much of it, seemingly made with one eye on provoking a media reaction, feels faddish. Some of the artists in *Sensation* I still admire: Lucas, Gillian Wearing, Rachel Whiteread (although how she counts as a YBA is beyond me). Richard Billingham's visceral photographs of his working-class parents, *Ray and Liz*, are still astonishing.

But, for me, the catalogue's most telling aspect is the passé tone of its specially commissioned black-and-white portrait photographs by Johnnie Shand Kydd. In them, the YBAs smoke, throw darts, hang out in boozers, play footy in the street; Kydd's shots smack of the 1990s living-it-large "lad culture" that, in various ways, has become anathema. Today, or so we tell ourselves, we're more compassionate, less individualistic. Masculinity is considered something "toxic".

"They behaved like football hooligans," recalls Watkins, who witnessed the YBAs carousing in Venice at a biennale during the 1990s. "I've got memories of [London-based German art dealer] Karsten Schubert pissing in a beer glass at Harry's Bar because he couldn't go to the toilet – it was disgusting, really. They felt that the world was their oyster."

> 'The YBA thing was very photogenic, but also too obvious and not as edgy as it seemed'

A few of Turk's memories at the time are, he admits, tinged with "embarrassment". That said, he believes the work in *Sensation* had a certain "honesty", which is something younger artists could learn from. Today, he observes, "There's less appetite for risk-taking, which is a terrible thing."

Perhaps, then, one day the YBAs will enjoy a revival. Rosenthal, who still has faith in them, thinks that their fate will mirror that of a well-known group of 19th-century British artists. "The Pre-Raphaelites had a bad time in the early 20th century," he says. "Now, people love them again."

Just don't expect it to happen any time soon.

'Gavin Turk: In Search of Ariadne' will open at Heong Gallery, Downing College, Cambridge on Oct 6

How 15th-century English history can explain the rise of Trump

By **Tim Stanley**



CONSERVATISM: A REDISCOVERY
by Yoram Hazony
480pp, Forum, £25, ebook £15.49

★★★☆☆

There's a project afoot to take Trump, Brexit and all that populist jazz, and build a post-facto rationale for them. It's called National Conservatism, and Yoram Hazony, an Israeli philosopher, is one of its brightest thinkers. *Conservatism: A Rediscovery* can be read as a primer for a movement: cogent and compelling, it seeks to explain what conservatives have historically believed and why. It's also occasionally eccentric.

Critics dismiss Anglo-American conservatism as a reactionary impulse: angry men standing athwart history, shouting "stop". Hazony believes it is a coherent school of thought that emerged in 15th-century England in defence of a constitutional settlement threatened by civil war. Our little island was different from the continent because it wasn't authoritarian or arbitrary but consensual and limited by custom. Europeans routinely descended into barbarous revolution. England resisted the temptation to rip things up and start again because we were guided by "historical empiricism": when deciding what to do next, we asked, "What worked before?"

The United States flourished, says Hazony, because it was modelled on this sensible constitution, and its early leaders created a nation state that was "God-fearing", with a cautious foreign policy, a tariff to protect trade and limited migration. We can infer from this that Trump is not only an authentic conservative but closer to the great tradition than free traders such as George W Bush or even Ronald Reagan. When Trump said "a nation without borders is not a nation", he put his finger on what the Right is really about: history and belonging. The individual is born into a family, the family is part of a clan, the clan a tribe and the tribe a nation. From this web of relations flows order and responsibility, and because this phenomenon is not global but particular to place, traditions are rarely the same from one country to the next.

Given that Hazony is such a fan of historical empiricism, it's odd that he often falls back on myth. We read, for example, that the English Reformation was "the first modern movement for national independence", that by divorcing us from the Vatican, it restored "ancient freedom". But the destruction of the monasteries – centuries-old repositories of charity and education – was pure vandalism, not conservatism, and one of Henry VIII's core aims was to crush the liberties of a church that threatened his own brand of tyranny (Hazony does acknowledge the irony that Anglo-American conservatism was born from a violent rupture, but he insufficiently accounts for it).



REUTERS

'A nation without borders is not a nation': Donald Trump in North Carolina, June 2021

Of course, for Hazony's theory of conservatism to hold, namely that it is inherently nationalist, he *has* to discount European Catholic history, because Catholicism is universalist and generally spread by empire. Hazony prefers the Protestant nation state and compares it with ancient Israel, a parallel that certainly flatters the Anglican Church but is obviously flawed. In his excellent book *Dominion*, Tom Holland demonstrates that the ancient Jews did indeed believe they had a unique relationship with God that could be expressed through geography, ie worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. But they were also convinced that Yahweh was the one God of all mankind, that his teachings had universal significance – and their culture survived constant migration because their customs were not limited by borders but ingeniously portable. To turn Theresa May on her head, one might say that the ancient Jews proved you can be both a Somewhere and an Anywhere at the same time.

The National Conservative movement wants to put Judeo-Christianity back at the heart of the nation state, but why assume, as Hazony does, that the outcome of a revival of public faith will be politically conservative, let alone nationalist? Jesus was absolutely part of the Jewish

> Christianity is driven by love, but Hazony's philosophy of faith leaves little room for it

tradition; he came to "fulfil the law". He was, however, also a revolutionary who rejected tribalism, asked his followers to leave their families, and threatened to turn "a man against his father".

Christianity is motored by "love", yet when a group of National Conservatives, including Hazony, recently signed a "statement of principles", the word love only appeared once – in relation to patriotism. There's a danger in Hazony's thought that faith is reduced to utility, that it is encouraged because it promotes conservative ends, rather than because the individual, by their conscience, believes it to be true and beautiful. This is what became of many European churches by the turn of the last century; when stripped of their radicalism and packed with bourgeois hypocrites, they blessed guns and sanctioned the First World War.

If you asked someone to describe the essentials of their political philosophy, let alone their faith, you might expect a series of moral propositions: care for the poor and sick, or build a just society. The "conservative paradigm" outlined by Hazony is closer to a list of anthropological observations, noting, rightly, that no individual is born completely sovereign but part of families and clans, and that "traditional institutions" help to pass on their culture to future generations. This is all quite obvious, but what if that culture is corrupt?

While reading Hazony, I found myself imagining an island, a very sovereign and conservative island, where the people are faithful to their gods, rich and happy – it just happens that every spring, they toss a virgin into a volcano. I struggle to detect anything in the National Conservative philosophy that would condemn this on the uncomplicated grounds that it is evil. Traditions might become more moral through evolution or encounter, Hazony reassures us – but if that pretty island were perfectly stable, and if no empire ever landed upon its shore, why shouldn't the volcano ritual go ahead? Hazony insists that he is not a cultural relativist, and to prove it he denounces slavery, demonstrating that the early American nationalists were against it, too. That might be true, but the Southern planter establishment was all for it, and are we going to pretend that they were unconservative, that they didn't have a sense of tradition or history?

I admire Hazony's efforts to put populism on a sounder philosophical basis, but if we're going to go down this road then we need to encourage a system of thought that gives us the language to distinguish between good and evil, and which has some sympathy for the "brotherhood of man", if only to keep the nations from turning on each other. Historical empiricism teaches us that movements which distinguish unashamedly between "us" and "them" can wind up in some very dark places.

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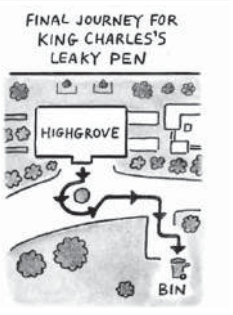
'Actually, this is the back of the queue for Westminster Hall, in London'

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'48 hours of camping, followed by a five-mile queue. We should get a Duke of Edinburgh award'

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Forecast

General situation

High pressure will continue to provide largely dry weather across much of the United Kingdom today with sunny periods. However, there will be the odd shower along the coast.

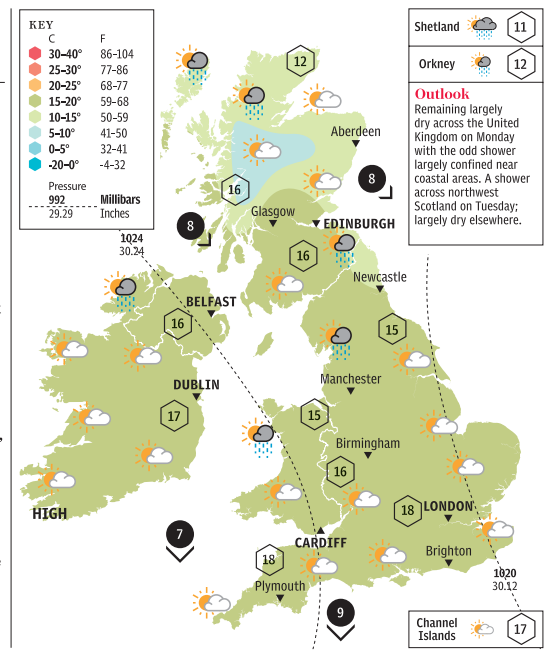
◆**London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Sunny periods today with the odd shower along the coast. A moderate northwesterly wind. Max 56-65F (13-18C). Largely dry with patchy cloud tonight. Min 45-50F (7-10C).

◆**NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Cloudy intervals today and tonight with the odd coastal shower. A moderate northwesterly wind. Max 54-62F (12-17C). Min 44-54F (7-12C).

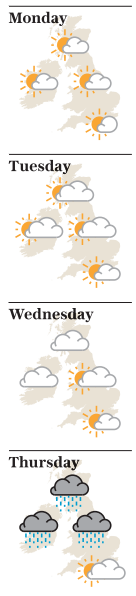
◆**Wales:** Largely dry today and tonight. A moderate northwesterly wind. Max 58-62F (14-17C). Min 43-51F (6-11C).

◆**N Ireland:** The odd shower today. A gentle NW wind. Max 59-63F (15-17C). Dry tonight. Min 47-51F (8-11C).

◆**SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Sunny periods today with the odd shower. A moderate NW wind. Max 42-62F (6-17C). The odd shower west tonight. Min 34-52F (1-11C).



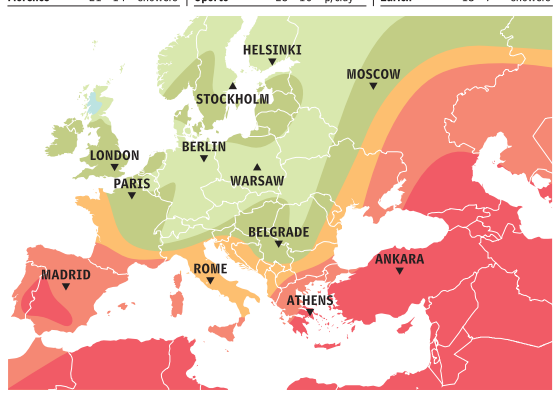
Four day forecast



European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Akrotiri	31	22	sunny
Alicante	29	19	p/cldy
Amsterdam	16	10	showers
Athens	32	21	sunny
Barcelona	24	18	storms
Bari	31	20	storms
Belgrade	16	12	rain
Benidorm	29	19	p/cldy
Bergen	12	8	showers
Berlin	15	10	windy
Biarritz	22	11	p/cldy
Bodrum	29	19	sunny
Bordeaux	22	9	sunny
Brest	18	5	p/cldy
Brussels	15	8	showers
Bucharest	25	17	storms
Budapest	15	13	cloudy
Cagliari	28	20	windy
Chamonix	14	3	rain
Copenhagen	17	10	p/cldy
Corfu	29	23	windy
Cork	16	6	p/cldy
Corsica	26	20	windy
Crete	28	19	sunny
Dublin	15	4	p/cldy
Dubrovnik	24	19	storms
Faro	24	18	sunny
Florence	21	14	showers
Frankfurt	16	7	showers
Funchal	25	21	p/cldy
Gdansk	16	9	storms
Geneva	15	8	p/cldy
Gibraltar	24	19	sunny
Hamburg	15	8	storms
Helsinki	15	5	showers
Innsbruck	13	8	rain
Istanbul	29	22	p/cldy
Kyiv	14	11	rain
La Rochelle	21	8	sunny
Lisbon	30	18	sunny
Locarno	21	15	p/cldy
Luxembourg	13	7	showers
Madrid	29	14	sunny
Majorca	27	20	storms
Malaga	27	19	sunny
Malta	30	23	p/cldy
Marseille	21	14	windy
Menorca	24	21	windy
Milan	23	17	sunny
Monaco	26	19	sunny
Moscow	16	7	sunny
Munich	12	6	showers
Naples	26	21	storms
Nice	26	18	sunny
Nicosia	36	19	sunny
Oporto	25	16	p/cldy
Oslo	16	9	p/cldy
Palermo	28	23	storms
Paris	17	8	p/cldy
Perpignan	25	16	windy
Prague	13	8	showers
Reykjavik	11	7	cloudy
Rhodes	29	24	p/cldy
Riga	16	10	cloudy
Rome	27	23	windy
Saint Malo	17	11	p/cldy
Salzburg	11	8	rain
Santander	21	13	p/cldy
Santiago/Comp.	25	14	p/cldy
Sofia	21	14	storms
St. Petersburg	14	7	showers
Stockholm	13	8	showers
Strasbourg	16	8	p/cldy
Tenerife	32	20	sunny
Tirana	29	21	storms
Toulouse	22	10	sunny
Valencia	26	17	p/cldy
Venice	18	13	rain
Vienna	14	10	showers
Vigo	28	15	p/cldy
Vilnius	14	9	cloudy
Warsaw	14	8	p/cldy
Zagreb	14	11	rain
Zurich	13	7	showers



British readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 4pm - *estimated readings

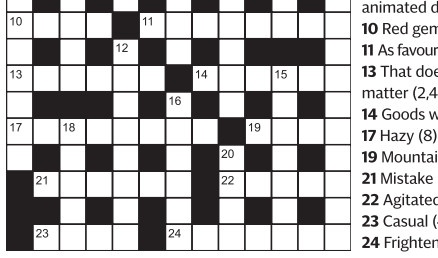
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min °C	Daytime weather
Aberdeen	1.3	0.04	12 8	showers
Aberystwyth	6.7*	0.00	16 1	p/cloudy
Antrim	1.8	0.00	15 7	cloudy
Aviemore	0.2	0.00	12 5	cloudy
Barnstaple	9.5*	0.00	17 4	p/cloudy
Barrow-in-Furns.	9.6*	0.00	15 7	p/cloudy
Basingstoke	6.4	0.00	16 6	p/cloudy
Bedford	9.8*	0.00	17 6	p/cloudy
Belfast	6.7*	0.00	16* 10*	p/cloudy
Berwick	5.1	0.00	14 6	p/cloudy
Birmingham	9.1*	0.00	16 3	p/cloudy
Bodmin	9.3*	0.00	17 6	p/cloudy
Bournemouth	5.6	0.00	18 2	p/cloudy
Braintree	10.0*	0.00	16 7	sunny
Brecon	8.3*	0.00	16 1	p/cloudy
Bridlington	8.3*	0.02	15 7	p/cloudy
Brighton	8.9*	0.00	17 3	p/cloudy
Bristol	8.9*	0.00	17* 7*	p/cloudy
Camborne	5.7	0.00	16 8	p/cloudy
Cardiff	5.1	0.00	18 6	p/cloudy
Carlisle	9.3*	0.00	16 2	p/cloudy
Catterick	5.8	0.00	15 4	p/cloudy
Cheltenham	8.5*	0.00	17* 5*	p/cloudy
Chester	4.4	0.00	15 5	p/cloudy
Coventry	8.3*	0.00	16* 3*	p/cloudy
Doncaster	10.1*	0.00	17* 6*	sunny
Dover	8.3*	0.00	17 7	p/cloudy
Dundee	2.5*	0.00	14 5	cloudy
Eastbourne	8.9*	0.00	17 5	p/cloudy
Edinburgh	6.2*	0.00	15 5	p/cloudy
Epsom	10.3*	0.00	16 4	sunny
Falmouth	8.5*	0.00	16 5	p/cloudy
Farnborough	10.0*	0.00	17* 3*	sunny
Fort William	0.2	0.00	13 3	cloudy
Glasgow	2.3	0.00	16 4	cloudy
Great Malvern	7.7*	0.00	19 2	p/cloudy
Grimsby	8.8*	0.00	16 7	p/cloudy
Guernsey	8.7*	0.00	16 11	p/cloudy
Hereford	7.6*	0.00	17 7	p/cloudy
High Wycombe	9.8*	0.00	16 4	p/cloudy
Holyhead	0.7	0.00	16 11	cloudy
Huddersfield	8.8*	0.00	14 5	p/cloudy
Ipswich	6.9	0.04	15 6	p/cloudy
Isle of Man	5.6	0.00	14 7	p/cloudy
Isle of Skye	0.0*	0.00	12* 7*	cloudy
Isle of Wight	9.7*	0.00	17 9	p/cloudy
Isles of Scilly	8.1*	0.00	16 13	p/cloudy
Jersey	6.1	0.00	17 11	p/cloudy
Keswick	8.1*	0.00	14 1	p/cloudy
Kew Gardens	10.0*	0.00	16* 9*	sunny
King's Lynn	10.3*	0.00	14 6	sunny
Leeds	9.2*	0.00	15* 6*	p/cloudy
Leek	9.2*	0.00	13 2	p/cloudy
Leominster	6.0	0.00	17 3	p/cloudy
Lincoln	6.9	0.00	15 6	p/cloudy
Liverpool	4.4	0.00	15 5	p/cloudy
London	6.0	0.00	17 6	p/cloudy
Manchester	9.3*	0.00	15* 2*	p/cloudy
Middlesbrough	6.6*	0.03	14 8	p/cloudy
Newcastle	8.7*	0.00	14 4	p/cloudy
Newquay	5.7	0.00	16 8	p/cloudy
Nottingham	6.1	0.00	17 5	p/cloudy
Orkney	0.3	0.16	12 8	rain
Oxford	5.9	0.00	17 5	p/cloudy
Perth	4.8*	0.00	14 4	p/cloudy
Peterborough	6.4	0.00	16 4	p/cloudy
Plymouth	9.0*	0.00	18 5	p/cloudy
Portsmouth*	8.9*	0.00*	18* 6*	p/cloudy
Prestwick	6.1*	0.00	15 2	p/cloudy
Ramsgate	8.5*	0.00	16* 9*	p/cloudy
Rhyl	1.6*	0.00	15 9	cloudy
Rugby	8.6*	0.00	16 3	p/cloudy
Salisbury	8.9*	0.00	17 3	p/cloudy
Scunthorpe	9.1*	0.00	15 4	p/cloudy
Sheffield	8.7*	0.00*	17* 6*	p/cloudy
Shetland	0.0*	0.02	11 7	cloudy
Shrewsbury	4.2	0.00	16 6	p/cloudy
Skegness	9.2*	0.00	16 6	p/cloudy
Southampton	9.6*	0.00	17* 2*	p/cloudy
Southend-on-Sea	6.5	0.00	17 7	p/cloudy
Stockport	7.7*	0.00	15* 2*	p/cloudy
Stornoway	0.2	0.09	13 8	showers
Swansea	8.5*	0.00	17 8	p/cloudy
Swindon	6.3	0.00	17 6	p/cloudy
Thirsk	10.2*	0.00	16 7	sunny
Tiree	1.6	0.00	14 10	cloudy
Weymouth	10.1*	0.00	18 9	sunny
Whitehaven	8.5*	0.00	14 5	p/cloudy
Windermere	8.9*	0.00	13* 1*	p/cloudy
Worcester	7.4*	0.00	19 2	p/cloudy
Yeovil	6.0	0.00	17 1	p/cloudy
York	8.7*	0.00	15* 6*	p/cloudy

World readings

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Accra	29	23	p/cldy
Addis Ababa	21	12	rain
Adelaide	15	10	showers
Alexandria	28	21	sunny
Algiers	29	18	p/cldy
Amman	35	21	sunny
Anchorage	12	11	p/cldy
Ankara	34	12	sunny
Ascension Is.	27	23	p/cldy
Auckland	14	9	cloudy
Baghdad	40	25	sunny
Bahamas	31	25	storms
Bahrain	37	33	windy
Bamako	28	22	storms
Bangkok	33	27	storms
Beijing	32	19	sunny
Beirut	29	25	sunny
Bermuda	28	24	showers
Bogota	17	8	p/cldy
Bridgetown	31	28	p/cldy
Brisbane	28	15	p/cldy
Buenos Aires	19	16	p/cldy
Cairo	32	23	sunny
Canberra	12	7	rain
Cape Town	16	12	cloudy
Casablanca	27	18	p/cldy
Chicago	25	20	p/cldy
Christchurch	11	1	sunny
Colombo	31	25	storms
Damascus	37	15	sunny
Dar es Salaam	30	22	p/cldy
Dhaka	33	28	showers
Dubai	37	30	sunny
Falkland Is.	7	1	p/cldy
Harare	26	13	sunny
Havana	30	23	storms
Hong Kong	34	28	haze
Honolulu	26	23	sunny
Jakarta	33	24	p/cldy
Jeddah	36	29	sunny
Jerusalem	30	19	sunny
Johannesburg	26	15	sunny
Kabul	27	13	sunny
Karachi	31	25	p/cldy
Kolkata	31	27	showers
Kuala Lumpur	28	24	storms
La Paz	11	-1	sunny
Lahore	35	25	sunny
Lima	18	15	p/cldy
Los Angeles	20	19	p/cldy
Maldives	30	28	sunny
Manila	31	25	p/cldy
Marrakesh	30	16	p/cldy
Melbourne	12	9	rain
Miami	31	26	storms
Montego Bay	31	26	storms
Mumbai	30	26	rain
Nairobi	25	15	cloudy
New Orleans	29	23	storms
New Delhi	33	23	storms
New York	21	18	sunny
Ottawa	15	7	cloudy
Perth	20	6	p/cldy
Port-of-Spain	32	26	storms
Rio de Janeiro	20	16	p/cldy
Riyadh	40	26	sunny
San Francisco	15	14	p/cldy
Santiago	11	7	showers
Seattle	14	11	p/cldy
Seoul	30	22	p/cldy
Seychelles	28	24	storms
Singapore	29	26	showers
Sydney	22	15	sunny
Taipei City	31	24	p/cldy
Tangier	25	18	sunny
Tel Aviv	32	22	sunny
Tokyo	30	24	cloudy
Toronto	21	16	p/cldy
Tunis	29	21	storms
Vancouver	13	10	p/cldy
Washington	24	17	p/cldy
Wellington	14	6	p/cldy
Winnipeg	15	13	cloudy

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Atlantic front



Noon today: High pressure will be centered over southwest Ireland today with low pressure over north-central Europe.

Last week's extremes

	UK	Europe
Warmest	London, Mon 27.2C (81.0F)	Cordoba (Spain), Tues 40.6C (105.1F)
Coldest	Shap, Fri -1.7C (28.9F)	Jungfrau Mountain (Switzerland), Fri -12.8C (9.0F)
Wettest	Lough, Tues 0.97in.	Ogulin (Croatia), Fri 4.81in.

Facts & figures

Temperature (C)	Last week	Last month	Last year
London	17.1	19.1	13.8
Manchester	13.2	16.5	11.7
Edinburgh	13.2	14.6	10.7
Belfast	13.4	15.2	11.1
Rainfall (ins)			
London	0.23	2.12	12.14
Manchester	1.05	2.12	21.00
Edinburgh	0.26	2.38	16.81
Belfast	0.73	2.20	29.30
Sunshine (hrs)			
London	27.9	231.1	1353.6
Manchester	32.1	241.0	1500.0
Edinburgh	43.2	157.3	712.0
Belfast	34.5	205.3	1115.5

Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises	0641
Sun sets	1909
Moon rises	2300
Moon sets	1608
New moon	Sep 25

Lighting up

Aberdeen	1919 to 0647
Belfast	1934 to 0705
Birmingham	1916 to 0648
London	1909 to 0643
Manchester	1918 to 0649
Penzance	1929 to 0704

Sea forecast

S North Sea: A moderate northwesterly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be good.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A gentle northwesterly wind today. Seas will be smooth to slight. Visibility will be clear.

St. George's Channel: A gentle northwesterly wind today. Seas will be smooth to slight. Visibility will be good.

Irish Sea: A moderate northerly to northwesterly wind today. Seas will be slight. Visibility will be good.

High water

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Aberdeen	0737	3.4m	2009	3.3m	Falmouth	1057	4.2m	2322	3.9m	Liverpool	0450	7.3m	1719	7.1m
Belfast	0511	3.0m	1742	3.1m	Harwich	0520	3.4m	1747	3.3m	London	0724	5.8m	1954	5.9m
Cardiff	–	–	1211	9.3m	Holyhead	0412	4.4m	1645	4.3m	Portsmouth	0518	3.9m	1737	3.8m
Dover	0505	5.4m	1728	5.3m	Hull	–	–	1204	5.9m	Southampton	0655	3.7m	1608	3.5m

Weather notes



Sunset at Blackpool Pleasure Beach as high pressure helped to lift the clouds

Autumn in the air with rain due later in the week

By Peter Stanford

There has been a northerly wind around lately, bringing with it that typical autumn mix of cooler days and chilly nights, with some night-time grass frost reaching down from northern parts into southern England. These conditions seem set to stick around into tomorrow where London will bid farewell to Queen Elizabeth under gloomy skies.

This morning will start with some fog. The wind will make its presence felt most along the North Sea coast of eastern England, but with high pressure covering the majority of the UK, there will be no great drama in the weather.

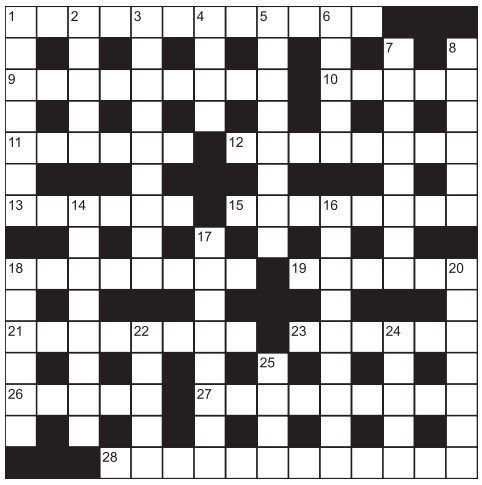
Instead expect more cloud, and too little sunshine to push up the mercury. The temperatures run in bands south to north, with 18C (64F) across southern England and South Wales, 16C (61F) from East Anglia across to Liverpool and Belfast, and 14C (57F in Edinburgh.

Those camping out in London overnight to secure their spot on the route of the funeral cortege will wake to nippy temperatures of around 10C (50F) but as the day goes on, it will grow warmer, as high as 18C (64F). Yet a sombre blanket of grey cloud will be much in evidence, with the outside chance of some drizzle.

The high pressure sticks around until midweek, keeping us at about the seasonal average, but low pressure will start making landfall in the west, accompanied by weather systems that will bring rain and wind in western parts especially, from Cornwall up to the Hebrides. And temperatures will continue to fall.

Forecasts are highlighting the prospect of stubborn high pressure getting stuck over the Atlantic in the weeks ahead. This may turn the tap off on the rain that has marked September. The fears of drought may, as a result, return next month.

Prize Crossword 3,178 telegraph.co.uk/puzzles



Across

1 Comfortable seat Conservative surprisingly held: it's free (12)
9 Character with edge in game (9)
10 Fish rest like birds (5)
11 Christmas favourite, failure (6)
12 How might one kill a creepy-crawly? Be quick! (4,2,2)
13 Very many for example eaten by wild animal (6)
15 North American princess in ancient civilisation (8)
18 Weaken soil in land (4,4)
19 Ancient city where paintings etc shown in spring (6)
21 Shoe: lose it, disaster! (4-4)
23 Supporter runs behind leader in battle (6)
26 Ship concerned with nothing on return trip? (5)
27 A soldier, say, filling new crate easily (2,1,6)
28 Immediately at that place, further in the past (5,3,4)

Down

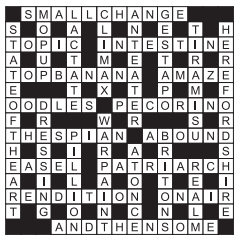
1 Super money (7)
2 Emperor resigns over housing blunder (5)
3 Untutored cast assembled (6,3)
4 Offensive letter you read, polite last of all (4)
5 Argon, say, is great after mixing around nitrogen (5,3)
6 Enjoy young setter from Hollywood, say? (3,2)
7 On level south of French border (8)
8 Turn pale while squeezing it (6)
14 Stop cutting allowance in bank (8)
16 Man spared wrong sign in text (9)
17 Old fossil is around, unfortunately (8)
18 Breakfast nonsense? (6)
20 Beaten, alas no winner, ultimately? (4-3)
22 Scottish runner just out of the medals, we hear? (5)
24 What fielder tries to do for contract (5)
25 Some ruler, a Jaipur prince (4)

A fine Telegraph fountain pen and notebook will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened from all those received.

To enter by email: Scan or photograph your filled-in solution and coupon and send to: **prize.puzzles@telegraph.co.uk** with **Sunday Cryptic 3,178** in the subject field. **To enter by post:** Send to **Sunday Cryptic 3,178** Telegraph Media Group, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DT.
Closing date: 9am Wednesday, September 28. See telegraph.co.uk/prize-terms for terms and conditions.

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Solution No 3,176



Last Week's Quick Solution

Across: 1 Poor, 4 Chew, 8 Girl, *(Portugal)* 9 Honeycomb, 11 Iodine, 13 Lucerne, 15 Tailor, 16 Ersatz, 18 Annexe, 20 Malign, 22 Ignores, 23 Casino, 25 Gibberish, 26 Lied, 27 Stud, 28 Dirt.

Down: 2 Oboe, 3 Rueful, 4 Cocker, 5 Ermine, 6 Digitalis, 7 Glue, 10 Boer War, 12 Stoa, 13 Lionesses, 14 Coaxing, 17 Zany, 19 Egoist, 20 Morbid, 21 Leered, 23 Colt, 24 User.

Winner of Cryptic 3,176: Paul Riordan-Eva, East Dulwich, London

Quick Crossword

Across

1 *Lacquer* (7)
5 *Leg part* (4)
7 *Indicate* (5)
8 Cantankerous animated dwarf (6)
10 Red gem (4)
11 As favoured boy? (4-4)
13 That doesn't matter (2,4)
14 Goods washed up (6)
17 Hazy (8)
19 Mountain lion (4)
21 Mistake (6)
22 Agitated (3,2)
23 Casual (4)
24 Frighten (7)

Down

1 Evaporating (10)
2 Arc of colours (7)
3 Tiny bit (4)
4 Bargain over (6)
5 Bladed window cleaner (8)
6 Suggest (5)
9 Neck cartilage (5,5)
12 Likely to fail (8)
15 Stroll (7)
16 9 x 9 game (6)
18 Vast (5)
20 Persistently avoid (4)

Help with today's Quick Crossword clues To hear individual answers or the whole solution, call **0905 757 0124**. Calls cost £1/min, plus network access charge. SP: Spoke – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

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Mary Poppins
Prince Edward Theatre, London

Practically perfect seats at practically perfect prices!

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's multi award-winning musical *Mary Poppins* is flying out of the Prince Edward Theatre on 8th January 2023. The stage production is brilliantly adapted from the wonderful stories by PL Travers and the original film.

Starring Zizi Strallen in the title role, Louis Gaunt as Bert and the legendary Petula Clark as The Bird Woman, the magical story of the world's favourite Nanny is triumphantly and spectacularly brought to the stage with dazzling choreography, incredible effects and unforgettable songs. Make sure to book your tickets before Mary takes her final flight!

Booking until January 8, 2023. Tickets from £24.

tickets.telegraph.co.uk

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The very best of the week ahead

Today

Bloodlands
BBC One, 9.pm

PICK OF THE WEEK

The grim, engrossing but uneven first series of this Northern Irish crime drama ended with a twist: James Nesbitt's DCI Tom Brannick is in fact Goliath, the Troubles-era serial killer that he had ostensibly been investigating. It's a revelation that gives the first episode of this second series an immediate edge, as its opening scene shows a miraculously de-aged Nesbitt murdering two IRA men in 1998, before discovering a sniper rifle and some gold in the crates they were dragging ashore. The murders come back into play years later when the body of an accountant is found, and Tom and his partner Niamh (Charlene McKenna) are assigned to the case. What follows is a fascinating study in the shifting sympathies of a protagonist who could very well be the antagonist. ***Stephen Kelly***

Frozen Planet II
BBC One, 8.01pm
Two polar bears square up to one another in a dispute over a fresh kill; rather than fighting, they begin to play and roll around, their glistening fur blending in with the white snow. It's one of many magical moments in this week's episode, centred on the wildlife of the Arctic Ocean. ***SK***



Keeley Hawes stars in new BBC thriller Crossfire; Bros singer Matt Goss (below, left) joins the 2022 line-up for Strictly Come Dancing

Monday

The State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II
BBC/ITV/Sky, from 8am
By some estimates, The State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II is set to become the world's most watched television broadcast of all time, with 4.1bn people expected to be tuning in. The BBC will begin coverage at 8am – on BBC One and iPlayer, with BSL signed coverage on BBC Two – finishing at 5pm. Huw Edwards and Fergal Keane will host from London, with Kirsty Young and David Dimbleby in Windsor, Sophie Raworth at Parliament Square, Anita Rani at the Long Walk in Windsor, and JJ Chalmers at Wellington Barracks. Dermot Murnaghan will be live from Windsor Castle for Sky News at 9am with Anna Botting at Westminster Abbey and Alastair Bruce providing analysis throughout the day. In addition, Kay Burley, Sarah-Jane Mee and Gillian Joseph will be among the mourners in London and Windsor. ITV begins proceedings at 9.30am with Tom Bradby and Julie Etchingham at Windsor Castle, Mary Nightingale at Westminster Abbey, Royal Editor Chris Ship in London, Rageh Omaar at Wellington Barracks, Nina Hossain on the Long Walk, as well as Charlene White, who will be among the mourners in London. Their coverage will run to 6pm, on all ITV channels, and, along with Sky, there will be no advertising throughout the day. The key timings: at **10.44am** the coffin will be loaded onto the gun carriage for the short **procession to Westminster Abbey**, followed on foot by the King and senior members of the Royal family. At **11am, the funeral service** will begin. Towards the end of the hour-long service, a two-minute silence will be observed. From **midday**, the coffin will be taken in a **procession to Windsor**, arriving at 3.06pm. At **4pm**, there will be the **committal ceremony** at St George's Chapel. The BBC will be looking back on the day at 8.30pm, while ITV will be reflecting in *A Nation Remembers* at 7.30pm, before *The Final Farewell* at 9pm. Sky will have Mark Austin reflecting at Buckingham Palace at 7pm. ***Chris Bennion***



Tuesday

Michael Palin: Into Iraq
Channel 5, 9pm
Perhaps the biggest revelation in the latest of Palin's new travelogues is that he recently underwent heart surgery. Charging up hills and enduring bumpy rides in 4x4s, the 79-year-old has the air of a man 20 years younger. And, of course, his curiosity, empathy and sense of daring remain intact, even if his innate optimism takes a beating in the first of this three-parter following the Tigris from source to sea. In Mosul old town he meets children still scarred by Isil occupation and is affected so badly that he swears. There are also disheartening encounters with Kurds in Turkey, still ostracised, near the Turkish-Iraqi border crossing. But Palin is keen to look for positive angles: a hipster tailor and a female entrepreneur in the wealthy city of Erbil offer two different perspectives on leaving the past behind, while the celebrations for Nowruz, delayed for three years, ensure the visual impact is as memorable as Palin's insightful one-to-ones with locals. ***Gabriel Tate***

Crossfire
BBC One, 9pm
Idyllic-family-holiday-gone-wrong is a bit of a staple when it comes to TV drama, but it's never been done quite like this. Keeley Hawes stars as Jo, a former police officer and wife-and-mother, whose R&R in Gran Canaria is destroyed when gunmen attack her resort in an incident reminiscent of the atrocity in Tunisia in 2015. It's heart-in-mouth stuff and Hawes is superb as a woman who must rediscover her courage. Continues to Thursday. ***CB***



Bloodlands: Nesbitt and Charlene McKenna

Wednesday

Star Wars: Andor
Disney+
The *Star Wars* universe expands with a TV-series prequel to the film *Rogue One*. The action begins on the planet of Morlana One, in a "corporate town" overseen by the Preox-Morlana security division, where our antihero Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) gets into a spot of bother and has to escape to his home on Ferrix. If you understand all that, you're a *Star Wars* fan; if not, stay and enjoy the ride as we follow the thief-turned-Rebel spy fighting the Empire during the five years before the events of *Rogue One*. Creator/writer Tony Gilroy takes his time setting the scene – although there's plenty of action to follow – and the series is stuffed with top names, including Stellan Skarsgård, Fiona Shaw and Denise Gough. The first three episodes are released today, with nine more at weekly intervals. ***Veronica Lee***

Broke: Britain's Debt Emergency
Channel 4, 10pm
A timely report as Britain faces its worst cost-of-living crisis for more than 70 years. Citizens Advice grants access to the work of its debt advisers, with cases including a mother faced with a £20,000 debt accrued from payday loans, and a single father living with the daily threat of the bailiffs. ***VL***

Thursday

Joe & John Bishop: Life After Deaf
ITV, 9pm
John Bishop has tasked himself with performing a stand-up show in British Sign Language – but he has to learn the language first. The endeavour is inspired by Bishop's 28-year-old son, Joe, who was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune condition when he was 15, and is likely to become fully deaf. What becomes obvious is that John and Joe's relationship is an uneasy one. As Joe explains, he spent much of his teenage years angry. For John, it's an education – not only learning BSL, but coming to understand how isolated his son must feel. It is moving to see them grow closer during their lessons, along with Joe finding self-acceptance as he is introduced to the deaf community. But the question remains: can John become a BSL comedian? As he says himself, "by the time [the joke] gets to my fingers it's not funny!" ***SK***

Westminster Abbey: Behind Closed Doors
Channel 5, 8pm
This aptly timed series takes viewers behind the scenes of Westminster Abbey, where the state funeral of the late Queen was held earlier this week. The first episode explores how the pandemic left the Abbey with around £14million of losses, which now must be recouped via tourism. ***SK***

Friday

Strictly Come Dancing
BBC One, 7pm
It is a truth universally acknowledged that Queen Elizabeth II had impeccable taste – chocolate biscuit cake, marmalade sandwiches, a gin and Dubonnet before lunch. And when it came to the tube in the corner of the room? Why, *Strictly Come Dancing*, of course. Camilla, the new Queen Consort, confirmed as much to last year's champion Rose Ayling-Ellis on set of *EastEnders* earlier this year, and 2020 *Strictly* star JJ Chalmers revealed that the late Queen wrote a letter to his father saying that she'd "enjoyed" his son's performances. So, if that wasn't reason enough to tune in to this year's series, then the reassurance that the show will return to the prestigious Blackpool Tower Ballroom and the permanent move of "King of Ballroom" Anton Du Beke to the judging panel should fill your boots. Tonight's launch show sees the class of 2022, including presenter Helen Skelton, cameraman Hamza Yassin, former England captain Tony Adams, comedian Ellie Taylor, singer Matt Goss, Paralympian Ellie Simmonds and *Loose Women* star Kaye Adams, paired with their professional partners. ***Rachel Ward***

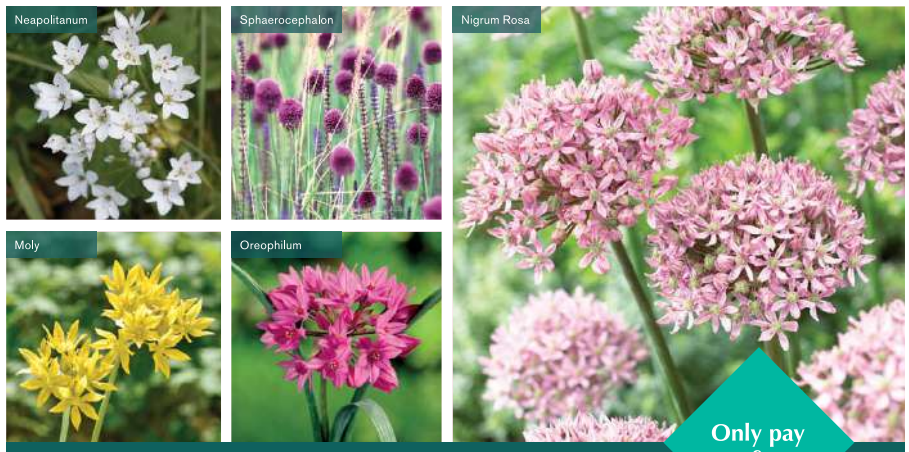


Ghosts: the gang return for a second series

Ghosts
BBC One, 8.50pm
Mike (Kiell Smith-Bynoe) and Alison (Charlotte Ritchie) have converted their country pile into a B&B and the first guests have arrived with the resident spooks, as ever, on hand to offer assistance. Series four of this excellent sitcom leans on its enviable ensemble, with caveman Robin (Laurence Rickard) spotting a friend on the news and the irritable poet Thomas (Mathew Baynton) dealing with the unwanted attentions of the plague-ridden ghosts in the cellar. ***GT***

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HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
1926 — 2022

Today's radio choice Gerard O'Donovan

Desert Island Discs
Radio 4, 11.15am

Former tennis star and veteran sports anchor Sue Barker's relationship with the BBC might not have been as cosy as one would expect, especially in recent years, according to reports about claims made in her memoir, due to be published at the end of the month. Hopes of further revelations here might be optimistic, given the distinctly unprobing interview style of host Lauren Laverne, but it's an entertaining possibility. On **Moira Stuart Meets** *(Classic FM, 9pm)* the former news anchor chats with TV chef Jamie Oliver, about the highs and lows of his career, and his favourite musical ways to unwind.

Between the Ears: California Burning
Radio 3, 6.45pm

"Out in the forest the ember waits in its cigarette to make its black mark on the world." Spend an atmospheric night with poet Kim Addonizio in one of California's remotest outposts, a fire lookout station on a rocky outcrop perched high above the Sequoia National Forest. It's an atmospheric journey in sound musing on climate change, the destructive power of wildfires and the loneliness of the lookout's life – all interwoven with the writings of Jack Kerouac, whose brief experience working as a lookout at Desolation Peak in the 1950s inspired some of his most incandescent prose.

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHZ

6.00am Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **7.00** Adele Roberts **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Radio 1 00s with Nat OíLeary **1.00pm** Matt and Mollie **4.00** Radio 1's Life Hacks **6.00** The Official Chart **7.00** Radio 1's Chillest Show **10.00** Radio 1's Wind Down Presents **11.00** Radio 1's Wind Down Presents **12.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **1.00am** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **2.00** Radio 1's Decompression Session **3.00** Radio 1's Decompression Session **4.00** Radio 1's Classical Movie Mixtape **5.00 - 6.00am** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHZ

6.00am Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs **11.00** Trevor Nelson **1.00pm** Elaine Paige on Sunday **3.00** Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker **5.00** Gary Davies **7.00** Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour **8.00** Sunday Night Is Music Night **9.30** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **11.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **12.00** Radio 2 with OJ Borg **3.00am - 6.30am** Radio 2 with Nicki Chapman

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHZ

7.00am Breakfast **9.00** Sunday Morning **12.00** Private Passions **1.00pm** Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert **2.00** The Early Music Show **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Jazz Record Requests **5.00** The Listening Service **5.30** Words and Music **6.45** Between the Ears: California Burning **7.15** New Generation Artists **8.00** Drama on 3: Folk **9.30** Record Review Extra **11.00** The Voice of the Vibraphone **12.00** Classical Fix **12.30am - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW 198KHZ

6.00am News **6.05** Something Understood **6.35** Natural Histories **6.57** Weather **7.00** News **7.00** Sunday Papers **7.10** Sunday **7.54** Radio 4 Appeal **7.57** Weather **8.00** News **8.00** Sunday Papers **8.10** Sunday Worship **8.48** A Point of View **8.58** Tweet of the Day **9.00** Broadcasting House **10.00** The Archers **11.15** Desert Island Discs **12.00** News **12.01pm** LW: Shipping Forecast **12.04** Mark Steel's in Town **12.32** The Food Programme **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World This Weekend **1.30** The Coming Storm **2.00** Gardeners' Question Time **2.45** Reflections on Majesty **3.00** Drama: North and South **4.00** Open Book **4.30** Imagiste **5.00** File on 4 **5.40** Profile. Friends, adversaries, colleagues and confidants provide an insight into the personality and motivation of a person who is making the headlines **5.54** Shipping Forecast **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.15** Pick of the Week **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Ed Reardon's Week **7.45** Hulda's Cafe **8.00** One Minute Silence **8.01** News **8.15** Archbishop Justin Welby: A Meditation for The Queen **8.30** Last Word **9.00** Money Box **9.25** Radio 4 Appeal **9.30** The Queen and Her Faith **9.59** Weather **10.00** The Westminster Hour **11.00** Loose Ends **11.30** Something Understood **12.00** News and Weather **12.15am** Thinking Allowed **12.45** Bells on Sunday **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58 - 6.00am** Tweet

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am 5 Live Science **7.00** Sunday Breakfast **10.00** Helen Skelton **12.00** 5 Live Sport **2.15pm** 5 Live Sport **4.00** 5 Live Sport **5.00** 5 Live Sport **7.00** 6-0-6 **7.55** Stephen Nolan **12.00** TBA **2.00am - 6.00am** Dotun Adebayo

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9-101.9MHZ

7.00am Aled Jones **10.00** John Brunning **1.00pm** Catherine Bott **4.00** John Humphrys **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **9.00** Moira Stuart Meets – Jamie Oliver **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.00am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Weekend **8.30** Pick of the World **8.50** Over to You **9.00** News **9.06** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** Outlook **10.00** News **10.06** Trending **10.30** Heart and Soul **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** This is Africa **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Documentary **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** The Forum **2.50** Over to You **3.00** News **3.06** Music Life **4.00** News **4.06** Sportsworld **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **8.00** News **8.06** The History Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** Trending **10.30** Pick of the World **10.50** Over to You **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Outlook **12.00** News **12.06am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.30** Heart and Soul **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.00** News **3.06** Tech Tent **3.30** Pick of the World **3.50** Over to You **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Conversation **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Adventures of a Young Naturalist Omnibus **7.10** Inheritance Tracks **7.20** Eleanor Rising **8.30** The Enchanting World of Hinge and Bracket **9.00** Take It from Here **9.30** Trevor's World of Sport **10.00** Desert Island Discs **10.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **11.00** Radiolab **12.00** Poetry Extra **12.30pm** Thanks a Lot, Milton Jones! **1.00** In Search of Mary Shelley Omnibus **2.10** Inheritance Tracks **2.20** Breathing Underwater Omnibus **3.30** The Hotel Suite **4.00** Madeleine **5.00** Poetry Extra **5.30** Thanks a Lot, Milton Jones! **6.00** The Door in the Wall **6.45** The Mermaid and the Rat Catcher **7.00** Radiolab **8.00** Desert Island Discs **8.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **9.00** Madeleine **10.00** Comedy Club **12.00** The Door in the Wall **12.45am** The Mermaid and the Rat Catcher **1.00** In Search of Mary Shelley Omnibus **2.10** Inheritance Tracks **2.20** Breathing Underwater Omnibus **3.30** The Hotel Suite **4.00** Madeleine **5.00** Yes Minister **5.30 - 6.00am** Thanks a Lot, Milton Jones!

Today's television

Main channels

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC One

6.00 **am** Breakfast (S) **9.00** Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg (S) **10.00** Sunday Morning Live (S) **11.00** Wanted Down Under (R) (S) **11.45** Homes Under the Hammer (S)
12.15 **pm Bargain Hunt** (R) (S)
1.00 **News** (S)
1.45 **Songs of Praise: Hymns in Tribute to Her Majesty** (S)
2.15 **Escape to the Country** (AD) (S)
3.15 **Garden Rescue** (R) (S)
4.00 **Frozen Planet II** (AD) (R) (S)
5.00 **News** (S)
5.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
6.00 **Countryfile: Queen and Country – Windsor Special** (S)


Frozen Planet II

7.00 **The Eve of the State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II** (S)
8.00 **A National Minute's Silence for HM The Queen** (S)
8.01 **Frozen Planet II** The wildlife of the Arctic Ocean, including polar bears and bowhead whales (AD) (S)
9.00 **Bloodlands** New series. Return of the crime thriller starring James Nesbitt (S)
10.00 **News; Weather** (S)
11.00 Regional News; Weather **11.05** Match of the Day 2 **11.50** The Women's Football Show **12.40-6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.20 **am** Beechgrove (R) (S) **6.50** Gardeners' World (R) (S) **7.50** Match of the Day (R) (S) **9.00** Nadiya's Everyday Baking (AD) (R) (S) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) **11.00** News (S)
12.15 **pm MOTD Live: Women's Super League** Aston Villa v Manchester City (kick-off 12.30pm) (S)
2.35 **News** (S)
5.00 **Flog It!** (S)
6.00 **Saving Lives at Sea** (AD) (R) (S)


Simon Reeve's South America

7.00 **This Farming Life** New series. Emma and Ewan move to their forever farm on the Isle of Bute (S)
8.00 **A National Minute's Silence for HM The Queen** (S)
8.01 **Stolen: Catching the Art Thieves** Three paintings stolen at gunpoint from Stockholm's National Museum in 2000 (AD) (S)
9.00 **Simon Reeve's South America** Simon travels through Brazil (AD) (S)
10.00 **Cricket: Women's ODI Highlights** England v India (S)
10.35 **Super League Playoff Highlights** Action from the semi-finals (S)
11.30 Sign Zone: The Boys from Brazil: Rise of the Bolsonaros **12.35am** Sign Zone: Celebrity MasterChef **1.35** Sign Zone: Celebrity MasterChef **2.35 - 6.30am** This Is BBC Two

ITV

6.00 **am** Good Morning Britain (S) **9.30** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh (S) **11.25** English Football League Highlights (R) (S)
1.20 **pm News; Weather** (S)
1.30 **You've Been Framed!** (R) (S)
2.00 **Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen** (R) (S)
2.30 **Simply Raymond Blanc** (R) (S)
3.00 **James Martin's Great British Adventure** (R) (S)
3.30 **Dickinson's Real Deal Winners** (R) (S)
4.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars** (R) (S)
5.00 **Ninja Warrior UK: Race for Glory** (AD) (R) (S)
6.00 **News** (S)
6.20 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
6.30 **Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used to Make** (AD) (S)


Ridley: Adrian Dunbar

7.00 **Coronation Street** Gary is unhappy as Sharon visits Kelly to celebrate her engagement (AD) (S)
7.55 **Queen Elizabeth II: National Silence** (S)
8.05 **Ridley** An investigation is linked to the arson attack that killed Alex's family. Last in the series (AD) (S)
10.00 **News; Weather** (S)
10.20 **Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad** The pair continue their European adventure in Poland (R) (S)
10.45 **Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union Highlights** Action from the second round of fixtures (S)
11.45 **- 6.00am** The Queen Remembered

Channel 4

6.25 **am** The King of Queens (AD) (R) (S) **6.50** The King of Queens (AD) (R) (S) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.30** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S) **9.00** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S) **9.30** Sunday Brunch (S)
12.00 **The Simpsons** (AD) (R) (S)
12.30 **pm The Simpsons** (AD) (R) (S)
1.00 **The Simpsons** (AD) (R) (S)
1.35 **The Great British Bake Off** (AD) (R) (S)
2.05 **FILM: Deep Impact** (1998) Sci-fi drama starring Robert Duvall (AD) (S)
5.25 **The Dog House** (AD) (R) (S)
6.25 **Channel 4 News** (S)


The Secret World of Ice Cream

7.00 **Grand Designs** A couple building their home above a swamp near a West Sussex estuary (R) (S)
8.00 **One Minute's Silence**
8.05 **The Secret World of Ice Cream** New series. Jo Brand tells the nostalgic story of how Britain fell in love with ice-cream (AD) (S)
9.05 **Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins** The celebs face a series of tasks that will test their resilience to the max (AD) (S)
10.05 **Gogglebox** More recent TV shows are appraised (AD) (R) (S)
11.00 FILM: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) Fantasy adventure sequel starring Martin Freeman **1.45am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **3.15** Hollyoaks Omnibus **5.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **5.20 - 6.10am** Location, Location, Location

Channel 5

6.00 **am** Milkshake! **6.20** Peppa Pig (AD) (R) (S) **6.25** Pip and Posy (R) (S) **6.35** Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs (R) (S) **10.10** SpongeBob SquarePants (R) (S) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 (S) **10.30** NFL End Zone (S) **11.00** Friends (AD) (R) (S) **11.30** Friends (AD) (R) (S)
12.00 **Friends** (AD) (R) (S)
12.35 **pm Friends** (AD) (R) (S)
1.00 **Cash in the Attic** (AD) (R) (S)
2.00 **FILM: Any Which Way You Can** (1980) Comedy sequel starring Clint Eastwood (S)
4.15 **FILM: Joe Kidd** (1972) Western starring Clint Eastwood (S)
6.00 **Happy Campers: The Caravan Park** (R) (S)


Million Pound Motorhomes

7.00 **Billionaire Resorts: On Holiday with the Super Rich** Exploring the French Riviera, starting at the Hotel Martinez in Cannes (S)
7.58 **5 News Update**
8.05 **Million Pound Motorhomes** Angellica Bell takes a one-day motorhome-manoeuvring course (S)
9.05 **Colin & Justin's Hotel Hell** New series. Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan overhaul and reopen a Canadian hotel (S)
10.05 **Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** (R)
11.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments in Pop **12.55am** Entertainment News on 5 **1.05** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **2.05** Ambulance: Code Red **2.55** Trawlermen: Celebs at Sea **4.30** Now That's Funny! **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.30** Peppa Pig **5.35** Paw Patrol **5.50 - 6.00am** Fireman Sam

Film choice


The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader *(2010)*
E4, 1.05pm ★★★

The third of the films adapted from CS Lewis's fantasy books is the most colourful and imaginative in the series. Michael Apted's assured direction ensures the film rollicks along, while Lewis's religious subtext is toned down so it doesn't get in the way of a ripping yarn, brimming with strange creatures, exotic perils and the beloved youngest Pevensie children.


Deep Impact *(1998)*
Channel 4, 2.05pm ★★

This rather po-faced take on doomsday stars Téa Leoni as Jenny, a hack who thinks that she's uncovered a political sex-scandal, only to be told that the problem is of a different magnitude. Can astronauts destroy a comet before it hits the earth and destroys all life? Will Jenny have one last hug with her father before a tsunami hits? It's more realistic, but less fun than 1998's *Armageddon*.


Joe Kidd *(1972)*
Channel 5, 4.15pm ★★★

John Sturges's later Western is a morally complex tale of violence and revenge. Clint Eastwood stars as the titular Kidd, a bounty hunter who emerges from retirement after being hired by wealthy landowner Frank Harlan (Robert Duvall) to track down a Mexican revolutionary leader, only to realise that he is being used. A difficult denouement can't take away from a slew of worthwhile performances.

Take some precious time out to reflect on Queen Elizabeth II's remarkable life in our definitive obituary. Explore nine in-depth sections, chronicling Her Majesty's childhood through to her golden years with detailed insight and stunning photography.

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Freeview, satellite and cable

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 107

7.00 **pm** Super League Playoff Highlights
8.00 A National Minute's Silence for HM The Queen
8.01 Akram Khan's Giselle
9.40 Michael Clark's To a Simple, Rock 'n' Roll – Song
10.35 Being Beethoven
11.35 Secrets of the Museum
12.35 **am** The Art Mysteries with Waldemar Januszczak
1.05 The Celts: Blood, Iron and Sacrifice with Alice Roberts and Neil Oliver
2.05 **- 3.10am** Being Beethoven

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117

11.40 **am** Agatha Christie's Poirot
12.50 **pm** Agatha Christie's Poirot
2.00 Goodwood Revival Highlights. Classic cars take to Goodwood Motor Circuit
4.00 Midsomer Murders
6.00 World Series of Darts Finals. The semi-finals and final
10.00 Martin Clunes: My Travels and Other Animals
10.30 Martin Clunes: My Travels and Other Animals
11.00 Martin Clunes: My Travels and Other Animals
11.30 Unwind with ITV
11.45 **- 6.00am** The Queen Remembered

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

Noon World Series of Darts Finals. The quarter-finals
4.00 **pm** Made in Britain
4.30 Made in Britain
5.00 Minder
6.05 Minder
7.10 The Derby Through the Years
7.30 Live LaLiga. Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid (kick-off 8.00pm)
10.15 Against the Odds
11.15 Made in Britain
11.45 **- 6.00am** The Queen Remembered

Sky Max

SKY 113 VIRGIN 122

Noon NCIS: New Orleans
1.00 **pm** NCIS: New Orleans
2.00 The Ultimate Romcom Movies
3.00 Grimm
7.00 A League of Their Own
8.00 A Minute's Silence for the Queen
8.05 A Discovery of Witches
9.00 S.W.A.T.
10.00 NCIS: Los Angeles
11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks
11.45 The Blacklist
12.40 **am** An Idiot Abroad 2
1.40 The Force: North-East
2.35 Road Wars
3.05 **- 4.00am** Road Wars

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.15 **am** Boardwalk Empire
12.20 **pm** Boardwalk Empire
1.25 Boardwalk Empire
2.30 The Sopranos
3.40 The Sopranos
4.45 The Sopranos
5.50 The Sopranos
6.55 Julia
8.00 A Minute's Silence for the Queen
8.05 Julia
9.00 House of the Dragon
10.10 Landscapers
11.10 The Gilded Age
12.15 **am** I Hate Suzie
12.55 House of the Dragon
2.00 House of the Dragon
3.10 **- 4.15am** Game of Thrones

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428

11.00 **am** Carry On Cabby (1963, b/w) Comedy
12.50 **pm** The Perfect Catch (2005) Romantic comedy
2.55 The Art of Racing in the Rain (2019) Comedy drama
5.00 Monster Trucks (2016) Fantasy adventure
7.05 Fantastic Four (2015) Superhero adventure starring Miles Teller
9.00 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Action adventure starring Harrison Ford
11.20 Allied (2016) Second World War thriller
1.45 **- 4.00am** The Nile Hilton Incident (2017)

Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 130

11.25 **am** Great Expectations
12.50 **pm** Great Expectations
2.05 Great Expectations
3.20 Catherine Cookson's The Moth
6.40 Call the Midwife
8.00 Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
9.00 Rebus
10.35 The Last Detective
12.05 **am** Rebus
1.40 The Heart Guy
2.40 A Place to Call Home
3.30 **- 4.00am** Birds of a Feather

ITV2

11.30am The Masked Dancer **1.05pm FILM:** Rio 2 (2014) Animated comedy sequel with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg **3.15 FILM:** Robots (2005) Animated adventure **5.10 FILM:** Madagascar (2005) Animated comedy with the voice of Ben Stiller **6.55 FILM:** Rampage (2018) When three animals become infected with a pathogen, a primatologist and a geneticist try to stop them from destroying Chicago. Fantasy adventure starring Dwayne Johnson **9.00** Family Guy **11.30** Unwind with ITV **11.45-6.00am** The Queen Remembered

E4

Noon Married at First Sight UK **1.05pm FILM:** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) Fantasy adventure with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes **3.20** The Big Bang Theory **4.15** Lego Masters Australia **6.05** Wipeout USA **7.05 FILM:** Failure to Launch (2006) Romantic comedy with Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew McConaughey **9.00** Married at First Sight UK: Unveiled **10.00** Rick and Morty **10.35** Harley Quinn **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10am** Derry Girls **1.20** Gogglebox **2.20** The Big Bang Theory **2.45** Naked Attraction **3.35-4.00am** The Inbetweeners

More4

Noon Location, Location, Location **1.00pm** Come Dine with Me **3.40** Four in a Bed **6.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** One Minute's Silence **8.05** Come Dine with Me **9.05** Secrets of the Queen's Coronation **10.00** 24 Hours in A&E **11.05** Emergency Helicopter Medics **12.10am** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **2.15** Emergency Helicopter Medics **3.20-3.50am** Food Unwrapped

Dave

11.00am Red Bull Soapbox Race **1.00pm** Cops on the Rock **2.00** Top Gear **4.00** Room 101 **6.00** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **7.00** Special Ops: Crime Squad UK **8.00** QI XL **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** Question Team **11.00** Comedians Giving Lectures **11.40** Would I Lie to You? **12.15am** Mock the Week **12.50** QI XL **1.35** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **2.25** Room 101 **2.55** Mock the Week **3.30-4.20am** QI XL

Sky Sports Main Event

11.30am Live Super Sunday. Brentford v Arsenal (kick-off 12.00pm). Live coverage of the Premier League clash at Gtech Community Stadium **2.05pm** Live Super Sunday. Everton v West Ham United (kick-off 2.15pm). Live coverage of the Premier League match at Goodison Park **4.45** Live WSL. Liverpool v Chelsea (kick-off 5.00pm) **7.30** Live NFL. New Orleans Saints v Tampa Bay Buccaneers (kick-off 6.00pm) **9.00** Live NFL. San Francisco 49ers v Seattle Seahawks (kick-off 9.05pm). Coverage of the week two fixture at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California **12.00** Live NBC's FNIA **1.10-4.30am** Live NFL. Green Bay Packers v Chicago Bears (kick-off 1.20am). Live coverage of the week two match at Lambeau Field

Sky Sports Premier League

11.30am Live Super Sunday. Brentford v Arsenal (kick-off 12.00pm). Live coverage of the Premier League clash at Gtech Community Stadium **2.05pm** Live Super Sunday. Everton v West Ham United (kick-off 2.15pm). Live coverage of the Premier League match at Goodison Park **4.45** Live WSL. Liverpool v Chelsea (kick-off 5.00pm) **7.30** Premier League Highlights **8.00** SNF **8.30** Premier League Highlights **9.30** SNF **10.00** Premier League Highlights **11.00** SNF **11.30** Premier League Highlights **12.30am** SNF **1.00** Premier League **2.00** SNF **2.30** Premier League **3.30-4.00am** SNF

BT Sport 1

11.30am Live: Serie A. Udinese v Inter Milan (kick-off 11.30am). Coverage of the Italian top-flight encounter at Dacia Arena **1.30pm** Joe Cole Cast **2.00** Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union. Worcester Warriors v Exeter Chiefs (kick-off 3.00pm). Coverage of the top-flight match at Sixways Stadium **5.15** Live Rugby Tonight **6.00** Rugby Stories **6.30** Joe Cole Cast **7.00** Live: Golazzo Live **7.45** Live: Serie A. AC Milan v Napoli (kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the Italian top-flight encounter at San Siro **10.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **11.00** Joe Cole Cast **11.30** Live: Hero CPL. Trinbago Knight Riders v Saint Lucia Kings. Coverage of the T20 cricket match at Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba **3.45-4.15am** Vanarama National League Highlights

Sky History

Noon Pawn Stars **1.00pm** Buried: Knights Templar and the Holy Grail **3.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Curse of Skinwalker Ranch **7.00** Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman **8.00** A Minute's Silence for the Queen **8.05** Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman **9.00** Hitler's Mega Plane **10.00** Swamp Ghost: WWII Plane Rescue **11.00** Secrets in the Ice **12.00** Alone: Polar Bear Island **1.30am** Vintage Tech Hunters **2.00-6.00am** Pawn Stars

Sky Arts

Noon Sky Arts Book Club **1.00pm** Discovering: George Clooney **2.00** Discovering: Alan Rickman **3.00 FILM:** Escher: Journey Into Infinity (2018) Documentary exploring the life and work of the Dutch graphic artist **4.30** Sam Cooke: A Legend in Concert **6.00** Dean Martin: A Legend in Concert **7.00** Elvis Presley: A Legend in Concert **8.00** A Minute's Silence for the Queen **8.05** Dusty Springfield: Music Icons **8.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **9.00 FILM:** I Am Burt Reynolds (2020) Family and friends of the iconic Hollywood actor come together to share memories of his life and fruitful career **10.45** The Directors **11.45** Liam Gallagher 48 Hours at Rockfield **12.45am** Liam Gallagher: Live in New York **2.00** Soundbreaking **3.00-4.00am** The Great Songwriters

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at:
10.20am Stowaway (2022) Action thriller starring Ruby Rose **12.10pm** Marry Me (2022) Romantic comedy starring Jennifer Lopez **2.15** Mona Lisa and the Blood Moon (2021) Mystery thriller starring Ed Skrein **4.15** Belfast (2021) Drama starring Jamie Dornan **6.10** Sing 2 (2021) **8.00** A Minute's Silence for the Queen **8.05** Marry Me (2022) **10.00** Stowaway (2022) **11.40** Mona Lisa and the Blood Moon (2021) **1.25am** The 355 (2022) Action thriller starring Jessica Chastain **3.25-5.00am** Belfast (2021) Drama starring Jamie Dornan

PBS America

11.50am Europe's Forgotten Border **1.00pm** Beautiful Serengeti **1.30** Flood in the Desert **2.40** The Vietnam War **9.40** Flood in the Desert **10.50** Europe's Forgotten Border **12.00** Closing Gambit: 1978 – Korchnoi versus Karpov and the Kremlin **1.10am** Beautiful Serengeti **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at:
11.05am FILM: Theirs Is the Glory (1946, b/w) **12.45pm** Reel Stories: The Projectionists **1.55 FILM:** Wherever She Goes (1951, b/w) **3.35 FILM:** Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green (1945, b/w) **5.00** The Footage Detectives **6.00** The Saint **7.00 FILM:** She'll Have to Go (1962, b/w) **8.45 FILM:** A Desperate Case (1958, b/w) **9.00** The Onedin Line **10.00 FILM:** The Winter Guest (1997) **12.10am** The Heritage Chart Show with Mike Read **1.15 FILM:** Anywhere But Here (1999) **3.35-5.30am FILM:** Blood on the Sun (1945, b/w)

GOLD

11.55am Only Fools and Horses **8.00pm** Dad's Army **8.40** Ghosts **10.00** Billy Connolly Does.. **11.00** Christmas with the Royle Family **11.55** Peep Show **12.45am** Roger & Val Have Just Got In **1.45** Billy Connolly Does.. **2.35** Desmond's **3.00-6.00am** Only Fools and Horses

Yesterday

Noon Bangers and Cash **2.00pm** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **4.00** Bangers and Cash **8.00** 'Allo 'Allo! **8.40** Open All Hours **10.00** Abandoned Engineering **11.00** Bangers and Cash **12.50am** Secrets of the London Underground **2.25-4.05am** Bangers and Cash

Discovery

Noon Mysteries at the Museum **6.00pm** Undercover Billionaire **7.00** Lone Star Law **8.00** South American Squatch of Argentina: Expedition Mungo **9.00** Mysteries of the Deep **10.00** Deadliest Catch **11.00** Wheeler Dealers **12.00** 100 Days Wild **1.00-4.00am** Edge of Alaska

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 11.05pm Memories of Her Majesty **11.35** Match of the Day 2 **12.20am** The Women's Football Show **1.05 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: 6.00 - 7.00pm The Hotel People **10.00** The Island **10.55** Cricket: Women's ODI Highlights **11.25 - 11.30pm** Barra on the Bann
UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: 11.50pm Sportscene: Premiership Highlights **12.35am** The Women's Football Show **1.25 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Scotland: 7.15pm Sportscene: Premiership Highlights **8.05** Loggerheads **8.35** Born to Be Wild **9.05** After 9/11: Scotland's Story **10.00** Martin Compston's Scottish Fling **10.30** Josh Taylor: Portrait of a Fighter **11.30** Stock Car Superstars **midnight** Close
STV: 6.30 - 7.00pm Sean's Scotland

Wales

BBC One: 2.15pm Garden Rescue **3.00** The Repair Shop **3.30** We Are Strong Women – Our Lives **4.00** Elizabeth's Wales **4.30 - 5.00** Elizabeth's Wales **11.45** Transfer: The Fate of Emiliano Sala **12.15 - 12.35am** The Women's Football Show
BBC Two: 6.00 - 7.00pm Scrum V Sunday
ITV Wales: 6.30 - 7.00pm The Mart

ITV Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw **8.50** Penblwyddi Cyw **9.00** Garddio a Mwy **9.30** Welsh Whisperer – Ni'n Teithio Nawr! **10.00** Y Fets **11.00** Cegin Bryn: Yn Ffrainc **11.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol **12.30pm** Gwyliau Gartref **1.00** Rygbi Pawb **1.45** Gwesty Aduniad **2.45** Cynefin **3.45** Trefi Gwyllt Iolo **4.40** Cheer am Byth **5.10** Cheer am Byth **5.40** Treiathlon **6.10** Cefn Gwlad **6.40** Pobol y Cwm Omnibws **7.45** Newyddion a Chwaraeon **8.15** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol **8.45** Prosiect Pum Mil **9.45** Delme Thomas: Brenin y Strade **10.50** Y Babell Lên a Mwy **11.50 - 12.25am** Codi Pac

The Funeral Of Her Majesty The Queen

Full coverage by the People's Channel of this momentous day begins Monday at 6am with Eamonn Holmes, Isabel Webster, Nigel Farage and Stephen Dixon.

Then at 10am join Alastair Stewart, Anne Diamond and David Starkey for the State Funeral.

All of us at GB News join the nation in paying our respects.

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BUSINESS & Money



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CNN woos audience from Fox as it tries to shake off a post-Trump hangover
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TMS to cover historic Pakistan series from UK over budget fears
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Buyers take on lifetime of debt to fund homes

By **Szu Ping Chan** *and* **Tim Wallace**

A RECORD number of borrowers are signing up for mortgages of more than 30 years as the housing crisis forces first-time buyers into a lifetime of debt.

Almost two fifths of first-time buyers and home movers in June took out a mortgage with a term of three decades or longer, according to UK Finance, as the traditional 25-year loan becomes increasingly hard to afford because of rocketing property prices.

This is the highest proportion since records began in 2005 and more than double the share 10 years ago.

The figures show 23,069 mortgages were taken out in June with a term of up to 40 years, or 38pc of the total.

Rapid house price growth and higher interest rates means more families are opting for longer mortgage deals as a way of reducing monthly payments and easing affordability pressures.

UK Finance said more than a quarter of households taking out a loan of over 30 years had owned a home for several years, while 47pc were first-time buyers.

With the average age of a first-time buyer in the UK now standing at 32, it suggests that many people are borrowing until the end of their working life or even into retirement.

The Bank of England has raised rates six times since the end of last year to 1.75pc to try to keep a lid on inflation, which stood at 9.9pc last month.

The figures illustrate how people are increasingly having to stretch themselves to get on the ladder in the face of rising interest rates and mortgage costs.

Separate figures show couples are now stretching themselves more than ever before to get on the housing ladder.

Data published by the Financial Conduct Authority show the proportion of "high" loan to income loans – defined as more than three times income for joint borrowers – stood at 39.2pc of all mortgage lending in the second quarter of this year.

This is the highest proportion since at least 2007, and compares to 20pc before the financial crisis.

Bank policymakers are expected to raise interest rates by at least half a percentage point this week, as officials battle to get a grip on rampant inflation.

Andrew Bailey, the Governor, and the other eight members of the Monetary Policy Committee were expected to meet last week, but delayed their decision on interest rates following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

It began raising interest rates in December and this week's move is set to take borrowing costs to at least 2.25pc, the highest level since 2008.

Banks and building societies have passed this on to homeowners with variable rate mortgages, and to those who are taking out new fixed rate loans.

The average five-year fixed rate mortgage taken out by buyers with a 25pc deposit came with an interest rate of 3.6pc last month.

38pc

Proportion of buyers who took out a mortgage with a term of three decades or longer in June, according to UK Finance

That is more than double the 1.4pc typically charged a year earlier, Bank figures show.

First-time buyers with a smaller deposit pay even more. The typical two-year fix for a buyer with a 10pc deposit costs 3.9pc, up from 2.5pc 12 months ago.

The average property sold for £292,118 in July, according to the Office for National Statistics, a record high.

This is up 15.5pc compared with July last year, marking a record jump. This is in part because much of the stamp duty holiday offered during the pandemic came to an end in June 2021, briefly pushing prices down again last summer after a frenzy to beat the deadline.

But prices are still up by 12pc compared with August last year and 10pc compared with June last year, the final month of the stamp duty break, illustrating the scale of the boom even after the tax break was wound down.



Center Parcs, which has sites in Nottinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Cumbria and Wiltshire, said it had embarked on a hiring spree

Center Parcs stung by shortfall of workers

By **Hannah Boland**

CENTER Parcs was battling a shortfall of hundreds of workers at the start of the summer season, accounts reveal, as the company reels from a row over Queen Elizabeth II's funeral.

Filings show that the business, which operates five holiday parks around the UK, had reduced employee numbers to 8,119 in the year to April, down from 8,722 in 2019.

All of its holiday parks were open throughout the 12-month period, following earlier Covid restrictions.

The drop in staff levels was most pronounced in administration roles, where worker numbers were 9.5pc below 2019 levels. There were also fewer staff in housekeeping and working on leisure activities by April this year. Center Parcs said it had embarked on a hiring spree since the end of its financial year. A spokesman said: "As of now we have actually a greater number of employees than we did pre-Covid."

'As of now, Center Parcs has actually a greater number of employees than we did pre-Covid'

The holiday park was embroiled in a row with customers last week after telling guests they would have to leave on the day of the late Queen's funeral.

Center Parcs last Tuesday announced it would be shutting its parks for 24 hours from 10am tomorrow "as a mark of respect" and to allow staff "to support our Queen on her final journey".

The step sparked a fierce backlash, forcing an about-turn on the decision from Center Parcs. In a statement, it said: "The vast majority of our guests are either due to arrive or depart on Monday Sept 19. We have, however, reviewed our position regarding the very small number of guests who are not due to depart on Monday and we will be allowing them to stay on our villages rather than having to leave and return on Tuesday."

National Grid flicks switch to gender neutral

By **Rachel Millard**

THE FTSE 100 company in charge of matching supply and demand on the nation's electricity system has taken on another balancing act: gender neutral language.

National Grid's electricity system operator has struck out masculine pronouns from its Grid Code, in a move it argued will benefit society and improve its service. "He" and "his" have been replaced by "they" and "their" where pronouns can refer to men or women, while "manned" has made way for "staffed" and "chairman" has become merely "chair".

The changes will "have a positive impact by removing any gender bias, inequality and discrimination", it argued. "They will also acknowledge diversity and convey respect to all people," the operator added in papers first proposing the move towards the end of last year. It was put forward as strains on the energy system started to develop amid booming demand as countries reopened from the pandemic.

Those strains have since turned into an energy crisis, with estimates suggesting ministers are planning to spend more than £100bn to pay households' energy bills. National Grid's language change, implemented in March, is part of a focus on gender diversity across corporate Britain. Under proposals launched in February, listed companies should have at least one woman occupying a top-four board position by 2025.

National Grid in March said it ranked first in the UK and third globally for gender equality, according to a ranking by social enterprise Equileap.

National Grid declined to comment.

Full steam ahead for railway station ticket office closures as ministers risk backlash

By **Oliver Gill**

MINISTERS are forging ahead with a swathe of railway ticket office closures, threatening to further inflame tensions with warring trade unions and risking a backlash from Conservative backbench MPs.

The Sunday Telegraph has learnt that Whitehall officials have "hardwired" ticket office closures into a new contract with East Midlands Railway, with sources saying the conditions will be replicated across the country.

Twenty-five out of 30 East Midland Railway ticket offices will be closed across the line's more than 100 stations, according to industry sources.

The 83pc reduction is understood to be broadly in line with the Government's "Industry Change Programmes" that will be rolled out across all of Britain's railways by Anne-Marie Trevelyan, the new Transport Secretary, after being developed under predecessor Grant Shapps.

The cuts suggest that Britain could be left with only one in five of its railway ticket offices.

This risks sparking anger among backbench Conservatives, who fear less tech-savvy voters in their constituencies could be forced off the railways.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport workers union (RMT) has already vowed to oppose the ticket office cuts, launching a campaign in June to "cut profits, not our ticket offices". The RMT and drivers' union Aslef paused hostilities during the period of national mourning for Queen Elizabeth II.

'The reality is that ticket offices have seen a significant decline in use over the last decade'

But a fresh round of strikes are already on the cards with Aslef notifying train operators on Friday that they would walk out on Oct 1 and Oct 5. Britain's railways continue to be a significant drain on the public finances after taxpayers spent more than £16bn propping up services during the pandemic.

Ticket office use has fallen from 34pc of transactions in 2012/13 to 12pc in 2021/22, according to government figures. Meanwhile, contactless payments accounted for 68pc of all national rail transactions.

A spokesman for the Department for Transport said: "No final decision has been taken on ticket offices.

"Station staff are vital for passengers' safety and passengers will always benefit from face-to-face assistance at train stations.

"The reality is ticket offices have seen a significant decline in use over the last decade, and by making station staff more adaptable we will have a better railway for passengers and taxpayers."

East Midlands Railway declined to comment.

Post Office scandal victims to get specialist mental health help during Horizon inquiry

By **Simon Foy**

JACOB REES-MOGG is hiring a team of specialist psychologists to provide mental health support to victims of the Post Office Horizon scandal at an inquiry into the saga later this year.

The Business Secretary is drafting in a witness psychological support team for the statutory inquiry over fears that vulnerable victims, some of whom were wrongly sent to jail, might suffer distress when faced with challenging questioning.

During the 2000s and early 2010s, Post Office bosses wrongly prosecuted hundreds of staff for theft and fraud using evidence based on the flawed Horizon IT system, which the sub-postmasters used to run their branches.

Courts have heard allegations that Post Office bosses knew Horizon was flawed but still proceeded with prosecutions. The inquiry is to hear opening statements next month and will run until at least next June. It is being led by retired High Court judge Sir Wyn Williams. The team of psychologists will help witnesses to give evidence in ways that minimise the negative impact on their health, according to official filings.

They state: "Giving evidence can be stressful for witnesses generally and this may be most keenly felt by those who are already anxious, nervous or experiencing mental health issues.



Jacob Rees-Mogg is to spend £100,000 on a psychological support team for witnesses to ease any 'distress'

"While seeking evidence from relevant witnesses, the inquiry is keen that such participation should not intensify or create psychological distress."

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) will spend £100,000 on providing the team of psychologists , the filings show.

The Post Office scandal has been described as the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history.

Despite warnings from inside and outside the government-owned company, the Post Office insisted that its prosecutions were legally sound until halting them in 2015.

In 2019, a High Court judge partly highlighted how much managers knew about doubts over Horizon's accuracy.

The Post Office agreed to pay £58m to 550 sub-postmasters who said it wrongly prosecuted for theft and false accounting to settle the case.

Hundreds of wrongful criminal convictions are now being overturned by the Court of Appeal and the sub-postmasters' fight for compensation continues.

While Beis is providing funding for the team of psychologists, the provider is being chosen by inquiry.

Beis was contacted for comment.

CNN has identity crisis as it woos viewers

Chris Licht is overseeing sweeping changes as he battles to revive flagging viewing figures and boost revenues.

By *Ben Woods*


ALAMY/GETTY

Before wrenching Reliable Sources off the air, CNN gave its long-running media show one last chance to go live.

In a monologue peppered with theatrics, lead presenter Brian Stelter snapped shut his laptop and took out his ear piece, as he delivered a frank assessment of CNN's decision to kill the show.

"So much of the media ecosystem in the 21st century was garbage, but so much of it was spectacular," Stelter said, amid the self-referential analysis and gushing thank-yous. "The hard part is sorting out the treasure from the trash." Those words will take on greater meaning for Chris Licht. The CNN chief executive is ruthlessly sorting the wheat from the chaff at the news channel as he seeks to end the identity crisis the news channel has suffered in the post-Trump era.

Licht, who took over in mid-spring after CNN Worldwide president Jeff Zucker resigned, is ruthlessly stamping his authority on the broadcaster to help shore up its finances and arrest a ratings decline that has widened the gap with Rupert Murdoch's Fox News.

Since new owners Warner Bros. Discovery took control earlier this year, the CNN+ streaming service shut down just weeks after launch and a string of senior figures have left. White House correspondent John Harwood, legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin and Stelter have all departed.

The exits have created alarm among staff at the broadcaster's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. CNN insiders fear the purge has only just begun.

The changes form part of a seismic shift in tone under Licht, who is seeking to move the channel from the Left to the centreground by telling anchors to leave opinions to the guest.

In a note to staff, he said CNN should act as a "truth-teller, focused on informing, not alarming our viewers".

The big question is whether Licht's tilt away from opinion will prove a miscalculation that could cede further ground to Fox News or revive the channel's fortunes.

Fox, the Right-leaning opinionated news network that championed Donald Trump's presidency, secured an average 2.1m primetime viewers between Aug 29 and Sept 4. CNN managed just 653,000.

Change at CNN has been brewing ever since John Malone, the billionaire cable cowboy who owns a large stake in Warner Media Discovery, talked down the value of opinionated broadcasting.

"I would like to see CNN evolve back to the kind of journalism that it started with, and actually have journalists, which would be unique and refreshing," he said in November.

"Fox News, in my opinion, has followed an interesting trajectory of trying to have 'news' news, I mean some actual journalism, embedded in a programme schedule of all opinions."

While the true motivations behind Licht's overhaul are unclear, there is speculation it could be partly driven by growing pressure on the bottom line. CNN's lacklustre ratings saw net advertising revenues to fall by 2pc last year, according to analysis by S&P Global Market Intelligence's Kagan.

With 60pc of the network's $1.8bn (£1.5bn) revenue coming from contracts with cable TV companies such as Sky-owner Comcast, persuading advertisers to return to CNN appears to be a key focus for Licht. One tactic being weighed is the prospect of allowing brands to sponsor segments of certain shows.

Softening CNN's opinionated output may go some way to giving brands comfort that their image will not be contaminated by a controversial perspective that does not align with their values.

GB News provides a cautionary tale how tricky calming those nerves can be. The opinionated news network attempting to disrupt the BBC has had to allay the concerns of advertisers after brands such as Ikea and Nivea boycotted the station in response to a social media campaign, Stop Funding Hate.

Angelos Frangopoulos, the chief executive, has claimed that the advertisers mounting a prolonged boycott of the channel posed a threat to free speech. Licht may take hope from the rumoured deal being struck between Salesforce and CNN's broadcasting rival CNBC. Reports suggest the $156bn Silicon Valley software giant has agreed to co-produce a new docuseries for the financial news broadcaster, a sign that there are commercial deals to be done between companies and news networks.

Yet, choosing when and how to advertise can still prove a veritable minefield for brands, who do not want to be associated with a gloomy news cycle. Sarah Simon, the Berenberg analyst, said: "The thing with news is when the big events happen you get ginormous audiences, but it's quite hard to monetise because advertisers don't want ads showing with a load of people queuing up for Covid tests. It's not a very commercial advertising proposition." Even if sponsorship deals prove elusive, the increased commercial-isation of CNN seems inevitable.

Licht gave a further signal of his intent early into his tenure when he hired his friend Chris Marlin as head of strategy and business operations, tasked with helping to bring in new sources of revenue.

A failure to do so may lead to uncomfortable conversations with the board of Warner Brothers Discovery.

The $43bn entertainment giant, which is behind HBO's *Game of Thrones* prequel *House of the Dragon*, needs its biggest media brands to make money, as it grapples with a $55bn debt pile following its mega merger earlier this year. With streaming competition growing and some viewers cutting their subscriptions in the face of a cost of living crisis, the challenge for the newly-merged company will prove tough. Pressure to eke out earnings across the business will be strong.

Perhaps the most sensitive challenge for Licht is managing the relationship between CNN and the Joe Biden administration. While CNN's attacks on the Trump administration will have benefited Biden, the White House has reportedly been left frustrated by the editorial and recruitment decisions overseen by Licht.

Officials were left unimpressed with CNN's negative coverage of Biden's Philadelphia speech at the beginning of the month, according to Politico. The station criticised Biden for politicising the military after having serving marines standing in the background during his speech.

In a tweet, Brianna Keilar, the CNN anchor, said: "Whatever you think of this speech the military is supposed to be apolitical. Positioning marines in uniform behind Biden for a political speech flies in the face of that. It's wrong when Democrats do it. It's wrong when Republicans do it."

Turning news broadcasting into a commercially sound venture has been a conundrum media executives have struggled with for decades. Licht must prove that he can deliver where others have failed.

Since his exit, Stelter has remained quiet. Irrespective of his hiatus, the messages from his last show linger.

Money for NHS is no cure for hidden cancer 'pandemic'

Boss of German healthcare giant Siemens tells *Oliver Gill* how hospitals can make earlier diagnoses

By his own admission, Bernd Montag cuts an imposing figure. "What one doesn't see on Zoom is I am relatively tall," he says. "I'm a bit of a scary person," adds the 6ft 9in former professional basketball player.

Siemens Healthineers, the company Montag leads now that his days of shooting hoops are over, is the 11th biggest company on the German stock exchange. It commands a valuation of more than €50bn (£44bn), sitting one rung below chemical and pharma titan Bayer and a step above carmaker BMW in the Deutsche Boerse rankings.

Part of Germany's sprawling Siemens conglomerate for more than a century, Healthineers was spun off in 2018.

"[We are] the clear leader in medical imaging", says Montag.

Siemens is credited with building the first X-ray tubes for medical diagnostics in 1896. It helped develop the first ultrasound technology in the 1950s. And later in the same decade, one of Siemen Healthineers predecessor firms then produced the first pacemaker.

Innovations that are commonplace in many hospitals followed: the first CT scanner came out in 1975 and the world's first MRI in 1983.

Today, the company claims nine out of every 10 hospitals worldwide use its products. It employs 3,000 people in the UK and Ireland, including in Oxford, which is home to its global magnet factory for MRI scanners.

As one of Siemens Healthineers biggest clients, questions about the NHS receive diplomatic responses from Montag, preferring to speak conceptually rather than pinning the blame on the 74-year-old institution.

Liz Truss has made no secret of the NHS being one of her three priorities since taking over as Prime Minister. Few would argue with the view that the health service is sagging under the pressure of a Covid operation backlog and surging waiting lists.

Montag's argument, however, is clear: simply throwing money at the NHS is not the answer.

"When you have a problem," he says. "When you have more demand then you can fulfil, this is where innovation plays a role. This is when you invest into technology."

If this all sounds like turkeys voting for Christmas, there is plenty of evidence that the NHS, Truss and Therese Coffey, her Health Secretary, should take note.

At the last count, Britain spends 13pc of GDP on healthcare, more than every developed country aside from the US. Those advocating fiscal constraint say this shows the NHS should concentrate on spending wisely. Although the number of GPs in England has fallen by 8pc since 2009, hospital doctor numbers have grown by a third.


ALEX KRAUS/BLOOMBERG
Bernd Montag, boss of Siemens Healthineers, at its float on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange

Meanwhile, the UK has invested far less in capital infrastructure than any other developed nation over the last decade, an analysis by the Health Foundation found in 2019.

The argument goes that the NHS has morphed into a service that treats sick people rather than preventing them getting ill in the first place. Montag is too diplomatic to urge the NHS to embark on a scanner spending spree instead of hiring thousands of new nurses.

Instead he says health authorities need to think about injecting "intelligence into the system".

Officials must think about how to "diagnose early, instead of treating late and then [having to] throw people at it". This, he adds, can manifest in a number of ways. It is not solely about buying more scanners instead of nurses. It is about how the MRI or CT machines are rostered, so that the technology can be fully utilised, for example.

Montag will this week underline these points at a healthcare conference in Hertfordshire. He will also give a more sinister warning: that Britain, along with many other countries around the world, is facing a "hidden cancer pandemic".

Cancer currently kills an estimated 10m people every year, five times the number of Covid deaths.

And yet, as Montag points out, the world was paralysed by the pandemic as citizens were issued with restrictions on their liberty and urged to be vaccinated against the virus.

"Covid is horrible, [and] it caught everybody's attention," Montag says. But, he asks, if cancer is more of an existential threat, why doesn't it command similar fear in the minds of governments, health professionals and the public?

Cancer charity Macmillan has estimated that there are roughly 50,000 "missing diagnoses" in the UK. Meanwhile, Cancer Research UK says delays to cancer screening and waits for further diagnostic tests and treatment are affecting around 2.4m people.

The hidden pandemic is "something we better think about", Montag says. "I could also argue [treating cancer] is more important [than Covid] in the long run, because cancer is here to stay."

from Fox



'The thing with news is when the big events happen you get ginormous audiences, but it's quite hard to monetise'

Quoting the ex-CNN chief executive Tom Johnson, he said: "Reliable Sources had as its earliest mandate to be very independent of political parties, to be respected by its viewers on all sides, and to earn the trust of responsible journalists for its integrity. Media should be held accountable."

CNN said the recent decisions did not amount to a change in its editorial tone or approach.

A spokesman said: "CNN is not shifting strategy, moving from left to Right, or pursuing a centrist position. We remain true to our core strength and mission – objective journalism, presented in a fair and compelling way.

"We are focused on building trust through tone and volume to accurately depict the urgency and severity of the news presented."

For all the criticism the NHS receives, rectifying its problems could prove easier than the more fragmented public/private set-ups on the Continent that are regularly lauded.

No matter how disjointed the UK's health system may appear, the Munich-born executive repeatedly insists that the NHS is a big "opportunity" for Siemens Healthineers.

Such rhetoric will strike fear into those on the Left of the political spectrum that the authority will move further into private markets with ever-closer relations with bastions of free enterprise.

The public versus private debate is redundant, he insists.

"What is really important is to look at the mindset with which one looks at healthcare.

"[It is about] how we use technology in order to take the waste out of the system. Using this mindset doesn't depend on whether something is public or private."

Montag's passion for technology and his company is hardly surprising given his background. He combined playing basketball in Germany's top league with completing a PhD in theoretical multi-particle physics in the 1990s.

"That was a real passion," the 53-year-old says of his academic work. "I like the beauty of simplicity." Making things more simple is precisely what the NHS needs a little more of.

Correction

An article "We need a public inquiry into this energy disaster" (Saturday, Sept 17) reported that Chris Huhne, the former Energy and Climate Change Secretary, "renewed his opposition" to new nuclear power in 2012. This is incorrect, and we are happy to correct the record.

After Covid, we can't cut China any more slack

JEREMY WARNER



No event since the Second World War has been quite as destructive as the global pandemic. There have been 6.9m reported deaths from Covid-19.

As to the economic cost, that too has been off the scale. In the UK alone, economic output shrunk 11pc; the cost to the public purse of the Government's various support packages was £376bn, adding around 15pc to the national debt.

Despite the size of the damage, we still don't know its origins.

In large measure, that's down to lack of cooperation from China, the epicentre of the initial outbreak. Beijing should not be surprised that relations with the West have sunk so low. The deterioration is not just about ideological differences, divergent forms of governance, and superpower rivalry; it is also to do with responsibility for countless lives lost and blighted, and for the lasting economic misery that Covid has inflicted on the West.

Beijing has therefore leapt on last week's Lancet Commission report on lessons for the future from Covid, for it includes the astonishing suggestion – not new to Chinese narratives, but largely discounted in the West – that the virus may not have come from China at all, but a US laboratory.

That this theory was given any airtime at all in the report seems to have been largely down to the influence of the Commission's chairman, Jeffrey Sachs, a respected US economist who has said in the past that he is "pretty convinced" that the virus "came out of a US lab of biotechnology, not out of nature".

The evidence for this claim is slim at best, and substantially based on the fact that there has been no independent, transparent, and science-based investigation in either China or the US of the bioengineering of Sars-like viruses that had been going on prior to the outbreak.

"The laboratory notebooks, databases, email records, and samples of institutions involved in such research have not been made available to independent researchers," the report says.

No wonder Beijing is dancing a little jig. The commission also seeks to exonerate China from blame for the slow response to the disease, insisting that there is currently no evidence that Beijing knew of the outbreak in Wuhan until late December 2019.

This does not chime with Western intelligence reports, which suggest that China knew it had a highly contagious and relatively lethal new virus on its hands by the late autumn, but did nothing to discourage international travel to and from Wuhan, where the disease first surfaced.

Wuhan was placed under quarantine on Jan 23 2020, and two days later the entire Hubei province was locked down. In the last week of January, domestic flights from Hubei to other parts of China were stopped. Yet Beijing resisted any curbs on international travel, and strongly urged carriers to maintain their schedules.

This policy was fully supported by the World Health Organisation.

Whatever the origins of the disease, the allegation is that the Chinese authorities put people on planes and spread the disease around the world knowing of the infection's highly contagious and lethal nature. We are unlikely ever to find out what happened. If the disease came from a Wuhan lab, then all traces of the connection will by now have been destroyed. That would also be the case in the unlikely event that the virus came from a US lab. Neither power is ever going to admit culpability.

'The allegation is that the Chinese authorities put people on planes and spread the disease around the world'

Nonetheless, it has put rocket boosters on what had previously been already fast deteriorating relations.

Thanks to its hard-line, zero-Covid policies, China initially seemed to sail through the crisis, compounding suspicions that the whole thing was being manipulated to enhance China's own standing in the world.

But now the boot is on the other foot. Vaccine superiority has allowed the West to escape the imprisonment of lockdown, while China has remained stranded in the limbo of zero-Covid.

Covid has been a watershed moment for Western relations with China. Prior to Covid, there was a tendency to excuse, or even cover up, China's bad behaviours on the grounds that such a large population and ancient culture had every right to economic and geopolitical advancement, and should therefore be cut some slack by the West. It is understandable that high officials, in the interests of diplomacy, should not wish to give offence, but the truth has to be faced.

The Chinese propaganda machine must not be allowed to dictate the narrative on Covid. Only with full disclosure can we properly learn the lessons.

Sadly, this seems as far away as ever.

Advertisement


Angela Hartnett, Restaurateur.

Angela Hartnett and Gordon Ramsay worked together for over 17 years. Spending this much time together, they got to know each other really well. One piece of wisdom always stuck with Angela. 'Gordon would constantly say 'Think of everyone as a VIP'. Coming from an Italian culture where guests are treated like family, this really resonated with me,' Angela explains. 'To me, it's more than making every customer feel like a regular, it's about treating everyone well regardless of who they are or what they do or where they come from. Which, when you think about it, is as important in life as it is in a Michelin Star restaurant.' Like Angela, we believe that the best advice comes from someone who knows you well. The kind of powerful good advice that you can expect from Evelyn Partners. Because we take the time to truly understand you. What motivates, inspires and drives you. To help you flourish.

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A year on from letter over safety, little has been done

Almost exactly 12 months ago, I was part of a group of ex-players who published an open letter to World Rugby calling for drastic change to make the game safer. I and my co-signatories – who included Willie John McBride, Sir Gareth Edwards, Barry John and John Taylor, as well as consultant surgeon Professor John Fairclough – felt the sport urgently needed to return to being a 15-a-side game for 30 players; that the modern law allowing the use of up to eight replacements per team, many of whom are tactical "impact players" or "finishers", had created a monster.

In the professional era, we argued, players had naturally become fitter, bigger and stronger than ever. Injuries had risen commensurately.

We quoted the former Wales captain Sam Warburton who predicted that someone would "die during a game in front of TV cameras" if nothing was done to stop the direction of travel.

A year on, thankfully that prediction has not yet come to pass. But rugby can hardly pat itself on the back. The issue of player welfare has never been more burning.

This summer, Ryan Jones, another former Wales captain, became the latest recently retired player to reveal that he was suffering with both early-onset dementia and probable chronic traumatic encephalopathy, joining the ongoing class action lawsuit against the sport's authorities.

Jones, only 41, said that he felt rugby was "walking headlong with its eyes closed into a catastrophic situation" as it continued to battle the impact of head injuries suffered by its players.

I do not think it is quite as bad as that. I do not think rugby has its eyes closed. In fact, I know the letter we published last year had a serious impact because I had a coffee with Sir Bill Beaumont, the World Rugby chairman, not long after we published it and he expressed serious and, in my opinion, genuine concern at the state of the game, and was very encouraging about looking at what could be done. Bill is on record as saying rugby has "become a game for big people" and in 2020 backed a trial law whereby players could be replaced only if injured.

But the truth is not much has actually happened in terms of action.

World Rugby has commissioned research, including the impact of substitutes and the likelihood of injury. But how long do you wait for data to tell you what you can see right in front of you?

In a contact sport, you have to be able to manage contact and at the moment there are too many contact situations which are out of control. Jackalling – stealing the ball at the breakdown – is long overdue a law change. The sight of opposition players charging in from 10 metres away and driving into the head and neck of a static defender who is bent over the tackle makes me wince at times.

The laws on rucks and mauls need to be looked at and clarified as a whole.

Let us see the ruck defined as "ball on the ground at the tackle", and maul as "ball held up off the ground, irrespective of where the ball carrier's knees are". If the ball is held up then the side not taking the ball into the contact gets a free-kick.

Jackalling could not happen if players rucked over the ball and heeled it backwards. Allowing old-fashioned rucking would also have the benefit of committing players, which would open up space elsewhere on the pitch.

It remains my opinion, and that of the rest of the group which signed last year's letter, that replacements should be limited to five per team, and then for injuries only. Allowing players to come on for 20 minutes simply leads to specialist players bulking up in the knowledge that they will not need to last 80 minutes. It means South Africa's "Bomb Squad". It means hulking fresh players smashing into tiring ones.

The encouraging news is that there are people working on solutions behind the scenes. Taylor recently alerted our group to the existence of a campaign called Love Of The Game (LOTG), which is doing tremendous work.

Founded in 2021 by Laurence Geller, a businessman, ex-rugby player and dementia campaigner, and Simon Shaw, the former England and British and Irish Lions player, it aims to drive awareness and funding of specialist scientific, technological and medical solutions that will help prevent, diagnose and manage those suffering from concussion and other head-related injuries in both elite and grass-roots sport. "Protect the Player, Protect the Sport" is its tagline.

The Government is certainly taking its findings seriously. Geller was appointed as an adviser to the minister of sport in July 2021, with the brief to drive forward understanding of head injuries in sport.

LOTG has hosted demo days to showcase potential technological solutions – machines such as the WAVi scanner which allows mobile electroencephalography to be carried out by non-medically trained personnel to assess players' brain function. LOTG is itself supporting trials of the WAVi system at Cornish Pirates, at East London and Sevenoaks.

Or the "CCMI" app – a complete concussion management system which improves intercollegiate communication after a concussion injury. Or "PROTECHT", which is an intelligent mouthguard surveillance system (interestingly, the upcoming Women's World Cup has provided every player with a gum shield which collects information).

LOTG will be hosting another demo day on Tuesday where I understand it will be exhibiting something called the PolarCap, which is essentially a refrigerated helmet made by a Swedish company that has shown excellent results in reducing prolonged concussion syndrome (those in which symptoms go beyond one month).

Once again, I implore World Rugby to take our letter seriously. Do not wait for data – trust the chemistry of the game and look at what is in front of you every weekend. Players deserve that. Failing that, perhaps government needs to take the initiative?

Vunipola drives stirring Saracens fightback to wow watching Jones

By Charlie Morgan **SENIOR RUGBY WRITER** *at Twickenham Stoop*

Harlequins	**27**
Saracens	**30**

Billy Vunipola escaped pre-season training and began the long road towards next year's World Cup with a tour de force in front of Eddie Jones, helping drag Saracens past Harlequins from 17-0 down.

Much of this compelling contest resembled an attacking exhibition from Mark McCall's side, who welcomed back four more England tourists in Owen Farrell, Maro Itoje, who was also influential, Mako Vunipola and Jamie George.

Harlequins defended for long periods and largely built their lead on opposition errors before eventually succumbing in the second half, having been hurt by the early withdrawal of Alex Dombrandt.

The spectacle may not have been much better for the involvement of Marcus Smith, but it was a shame – and a missed opportunity for a Premiership season that could do with some positive PR – that he was barred from playing due to rest protocols.

McCall suggested that the contribution of his England contingent had been "a part of why we won today" and explained that a "sensible" and "simple" process of clearing them for action had involved an email to coordinate four parties – the players, Jones, Premiership Rugby and the Rugby Players' Association. Essentially, Billy Vunipola was allowed back because of his infamous dislike of conditioning drills.

"Billy's one who wants to play because he doesn't like running up and down the field by himself," McCall said. "He hasn't played a lot over the last few seasons and is desperate to get back into the international set-up."

When the action began, Harlequins punished Saracens' rust. Cadan Murley scored twice in the first eight minutes. Dombrandt laid on the second after a clever breakdown steal.

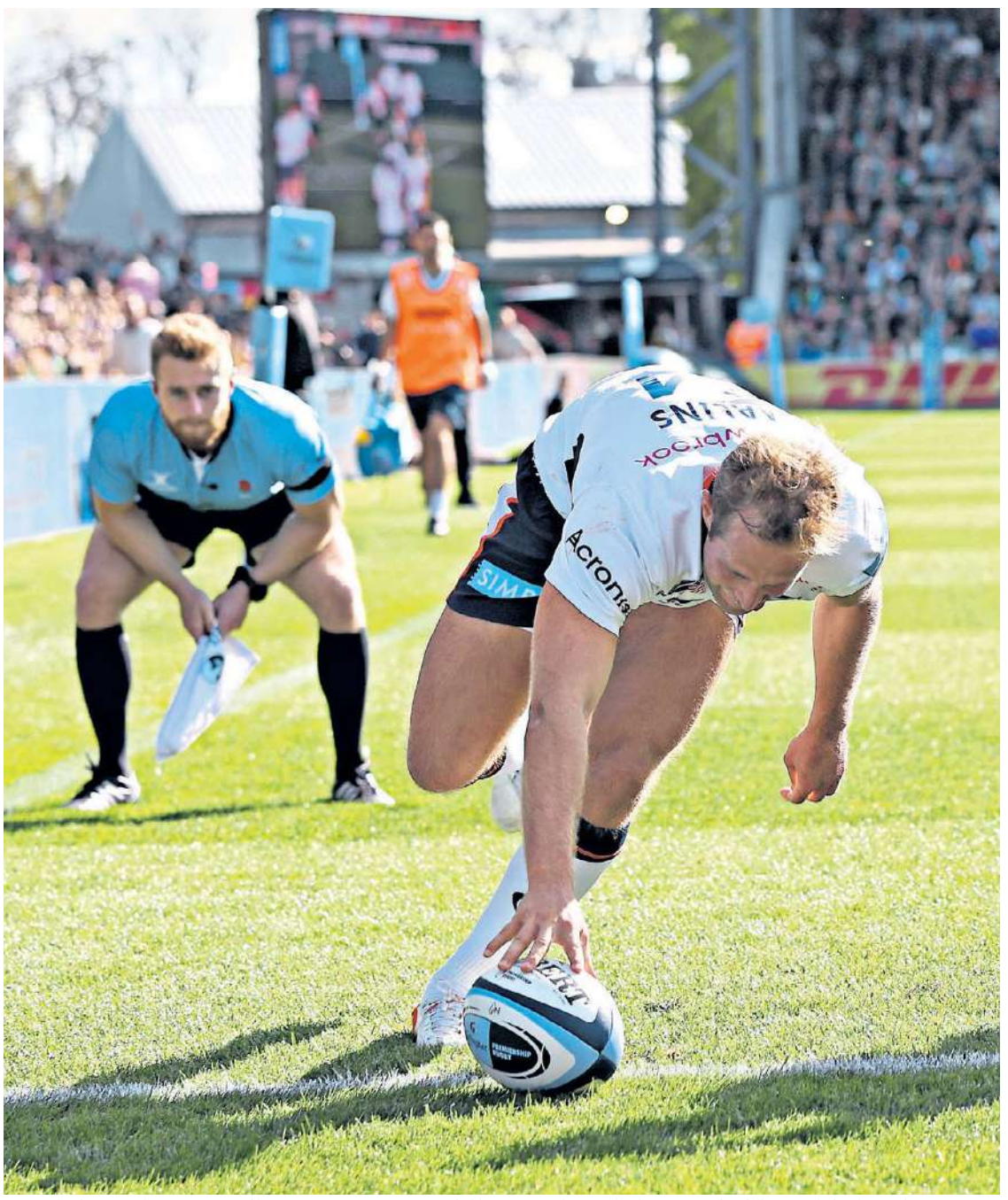
Elliot Daly and Max Malins replied but Saracens went into half-time 24-12 down. Dombrandt pounced on another back-line blunder from Saracens and found Joe Marchant, who finished easily. That would be Dombrandt's last act, however. He headed down the tunnel with what appeared to be a hamstring complaint.

Malins was over again six minutes into the second half and, with McCall unloading George and Mako Vunipola from his bench, Saracens reeled in their rivals.

Farrell put Billy Vunipola through the middle and then played another neat pass. Nick Tompkins scurried across for the bonus-point try on the occasion of his 150th Saracens appearance. Tommy Allan and Daly then traded penalty goals, the latter splitting the posts from 50 metres to restore Saracens' three-point advantage.

Allan had begun with a brilliant touch-finder and hit another late on. Unfortunately for the hosts, their maul set-up was deemed illegal. They had one more line-out opportunity, but Itoje was quickest to react to a slap-down from Irne Herbst and Farrell smashed the ball out.

Scores 5-0 Murley try, 7-0 Allan con, 12-0 Murley try, 14-0 Allan con, 17-0 Allan pen, 17-5 Daly try, 17-10 Malins try, 17-12 Farrell con, 22-12 Marchant try, 24-12 Allan con, 24-17 Malins try, 24-20 Farrell pen, 24-25 Tompkins try, 24-27 Farrell con, 27-27 Allan pen, 27-30 Daly pen.
Harlequins T Green; J Marchant, L Northmore, L Anyanwu (H Hyde 73), C Murley; T Allan, L Gjaltema (J Stafford 73); J Marler (S Kerrod 60), G Head (J Walker 49), W Collier (W Louw 20), G Hammond (D Lamb 64), T Herbst, J Kenningham, W Evans, A Dombrandt (A White 37).
Replacement W Edwards.
Saracens E Daly; M Malins, A Lozowski (D Taylor 76), N Tompkins, M Malins; O Farrell, I van Zyl (A Davies 54-64); E Mawi (Mako Vunipola 47), T Woolstencroft (J George 47), C Judge (A Clarey 62), M Itoje, H Tizard, T McFarland (A Christie 63), B Earl, B Vunipola (J Wray 76).
Replacement Manu Vunipola.
Referee T Foley (RFU). **Att** 12,831.



Roaring back: Max Malins scores one of his two tries in Saracens' remarkable turnaround at Twickenham Stoop after falling 17-0 behind to Harlequins

Saints beat Irish sinners

George Furbank scored 13 points as Northampton picked up their first win of the new season with a 38-22 victory over London Irish.

The margin of victory was comfortable but it did not tell the full story of what was an error-strewn encounter.

At one point, the Exiles were down to 12 men due to various players being sent to the sin-bin, although it was only after they were restored to full strength that the hosts pulled away.

"We didn't really take advantage of the numerical difference," Phil Dowson, the Saints director of rugby, said. "We weren't clinical enough, we didn't keep hold of the ball and we forced things, but what we did do is we stuck to our guns when it got back to 15 apiece and we managed to get on top.

"Big parts of our game came back, but it is tough playing with 12 guys – we've done it in the past a couple of seasons ago and it takes it out of you."

Elsewhere, Callum Sheedy scored 18 points as **Bristol** won 23-8 at **Wasps**.

The Bears, buoyed by their opening-round win over Bath, barely got out of second gear as they cruised to victory against a Wasps side devoid of confidence after allowing a 21-point lead to slip at Gloucester the previous week.

Sale 'grit' defies early red card

By Delme Parfitt *at the Recreation Ground*

Bath	**20**
Sale Sharks	**37**

Sale Sharks made it two Gallagher Premiership bonus-point wins out of two as they brushed aside an early red card for South African prop Nick Schonert to secure victory over Bath.

The former Worcester tighthead was sent off in the eighth minute for a high tackle on Bath lock Dave Attwood.

Even in this more enlightened era of zero tolerance around any challenge that threatens the head, it looked a harsh call by referee Christophe Ridley.

With Schonert off, there was an expectation of a grim holding operation from Sale, but Bath were too passive and the visitors refused to let the dismissal become their undoing.

"The togetherness and grit was excellent. We were physical in defence and played in the right areas," Alex Sanderson, the Sharks director of rugby, said. "It's more reward for the work they have done in the summer. That's what I'm most happy about."

It was 7-0 to the visitors when they were reduced to 14 players, following Tom O'Flaherty's try, but by half-time they were 23-6 to the good.

Sale sacrificed wing Tom Roebuck for prop James Harper in order to avoid uncontested scrums, and then proceeded to provide a masterclass in how to cope with a red card.

Two Piers Francis penalties to one from Rob du Preez brought Bath to within four points but, up to the interval, the hosts were woeful.

A second try by hooker Akker van der Merwe in the 25th minute put daylight between the teams on the scoreboard and Du Preez's lethal boot extended Sale's advantage with a further two penalties. Every yard gained by Bath was cheered ferociously by their ever-excitable supporters, but they were entitled to expect much better.



Early dismissal: Prop Nick Schonert was shown a red card for a high tackle in the eighth minute, but Sale still managed to win

The home forwards continued to lose the battle of the gain line, while their inability to secure enough possession meant chances for the backs to make their numerical supremacy count in the wider channels were few.

A 10-minute period at the start of the second half, during which Bath played with far more intent, did yield a try for England wing Joe Cokanasiga.

But any suggestion of a comeback was snuffed out when British and Irish Lions flanker Tom Curry scored with his first touch as a 52nd-minute substitute.

Full-back Tom de Glanville claimed Bath's second try in the 72nd minute when Sale were down to 13 players, after replacement prop Ross Harrison had been sent to the sin-bin. But Jono Ross's bonus-point try ensured the away side had the last word.

"My job through the coming years is to create depth," said Johann van Graan, the Bath head coach, who was later dealt a blow with the news that Sam Underhill is out for 12 weeks with a shoulder injury. The flanker will now miss England's autumn internationals.

Scores 0-5 O'Flaherty try, 0-7 R du Preez con, 3-7 Francis pen, 3-10 Du Preez pen, 6-10 Francis pen, 6-15 Van der Merwe try, 6-17 Du Preez con, 6-20 Du Preez pen, 6-23 Du Preez pen, 11-23 Cokanasiga try, 13-23 Francis con, 13-28 Curry try, 13-30 Du Preez con, 18-30 De Glanville try, 20-30 Francis con, 20-35 Ross try, 20-37 Du Preez con.
Bath T de Glanville; J Cokanasiga, J Joseph, C Redpath, W Muir (O Bailey 75); P Francis, B Spencer (L Schreuder 26); L Boyce (J Schoeman 54), T Dunn (T Doughty 75), A Coetzee (W Stuart 54), D Attwood, J McNally (GJ van Velze 59), J Bayliss, W White (W Spencer 74), J Coetzee (R De Carpentier 40).
Sale Sharks L James (A Reed 44); T Roebuck (J Harper 8), S James, M Tuilagi, T O'Flaherty (T Curtis 75); R Du Preez, G Warr; S McIntyre (R Harrison 52), A van der Merwe (E Ashman 66), N Schonert, C Wiese (T Curry 52), J Hill, J Du Preez, B Curry (S McIntyre 66-76), D Du Preez.
Sent off N Schonert.
Referee C Ridley.

Leicester have to toil for first win

By Charles Richardson *at Mattioli Woods Welford Road*

Leicester	**36**
Newcastle	**21**

This was closer than the champions would have envisaged on their homecoming after June's Premiership final win, but Leicester just about had enough to put plucky Newcastle to bed.

The Falcons have only won one league match in 2022, but it will not be long until the next. Dave Walder's side, written off in the build-up, deserved to leave here with more than just their pride intact; a losing bonus point, at least. "It's great to know the resolve is there," Walder, the head coach, said. "There are positives but it's tough to take, not getting more from that game."

Despite some uncharacteristic lapses, Leicester, after their opening defeat by Exeter, will have been buoyed by this performance with an East Midlands derby next Saturday. In wing Nemani Nadolo and centre Guy Porter they had the two outstanding players. "Progress in some areas," Steve Borthwick, Leicester's head coach, said. "There were another six players playing their first game of the season, another debutant… gradually you see the cohesion improving. But there's still plenty to work on."

The Tigers had the bonus point sewn up by half-time, with Nadolo running riot and Porter – on his return from England duty – as effervescent as a bottle of bubbly.

It was that duo who provided the game's opening score. After a gorgeous Porter glide left the Falcons midfield for dead, Nadolo trampled over Adam Radwan within five metres of the line before loosehead James Cronin barrelled over for his first try for the club.

Minutes later, the same pair were at it again, as Porter's hitch-kick left Newcastle at sixes and sevens and his searing pass to Nadolo resulted in Leicester's second.



Standout: Guy Porter put in a dazzling display as champions Leicester saw off the challenge of a plucky Newcastle team

The visitors lacked firepower but, despite a destructive injury list, they fought back with two quickfire scores to take a narrow lead. First, scrum-half Josh Barton scurried over before a scorcher of a 50:22 from fly-half Brett Connon – "If he meant it, unbelievable," said Walder – gave the Falcons exquisite field position and hooker George McGuigan burrowed over to take his 2022 try tally to a staggering 14 – more than anyone in the Premiership.

But a ruthless Tigers one-two on the stroke of half-time dented the visitors' hopes. Nadolo belly-flopped beneath the sticks and, from the restart, lock Harry Wells threw a sumptuous blind offload to Nadolo, who swatted away Barton before feeding full-back Chris Ashton for Leicester's fourth.

Mateo Carreras's score just after half-time reminded Welford Road that the Falcons were not making up the numbers and they could have retaken the lead were it not for a forward pass from Pete Lucock as Radwan motored over.

It would not be long until Tigers had the game wrapped up. Jimmy Gopperth added three points from the tee and flanker Olly Cracknell the final flourish.

Scores 5-0 Cronin try, 7-0 Gopperth con, 12-0 Nadolo try, 12-5 Barton try, 12-7 Connon con, 12-12 McGuigan try, 12-14 Connon con, 17-14 Nadolo try, 19-14 Gopperth con, 24-14 Ashton try, 26-14 Gopperth con, 26-19 Carreras try, 26-21 Connon con, 29-21 Gopperth pen, 34-21 Cracknell try, 36-21 Gopperth con.
Leicester C Ashton; H Potter, M Scott (J Cokanasiga 67), G Porter, N Nadolo (K Murimurivalu 75); J Gopperth, B Youngs (J van Poortvliet 54); J Cronin (F van Wyk 58), C Clare (J Taufete'e 75), D Cole (J Heyes 58), H Wells, C Green (T Reffell 49), G Martin (O Cracknell 71), O Chessum, H Liebenberg.
Newcastle A Tait; A Radwan, G Wacokecoke, P Lucock (T Schoeman 29, P Lucock 39), N Earle (M Carreras 24); B Connon (Schoeman 58), J Barton (C Nordli-Kelemeti 54); P Brantingham (C Cade 66), G McGuigan (C Maddison 71), T Davison (M Tampin 65), G Peterson, S Robinson, W Welch, J Blamire (S de Chaves 64), C Fearns (C Collett 58).
Referee C Maxwell-Keys (RFU). **Att** 18,106.

Veteran Stevens revels in Kent glory

Royal London One-Day Cup final
By Tim Wigmore *at Trent Bridge*

Stalwart shrugs off injury to plunder unbeaten 33

Evison takes starring role to seal sixth one-day title

"Stevo is God" read one banner brought in by Kent fans here. And while Kent's God creaked at times – he was dropped twice during an undefeated 33 in which he suffered a groin injury which meant that, after bowling eight wicketless overs, he left the field – Darren Stevens ended the day with a feeling that has eluded him throughout his 26 years in the professional game. He is now a Royal London One-Day Cup champion.

"It means a lot. I was going to play next week but not now I've done my groin," said Stevens. "Being a professional cricketer is all about winning trophies. This just tops it off nicely."

The only shame, perhaps, was Stevens having to watch the moment of victory from the sidelines because of his injury. But he returned to the pitch promptly enough, eagerly taking a stump as a momento of the win while the Kent faithful sang his name.

Stevens played an important role in Kent's triumph – thumping and scampering his way to 33 off 31 balls, and then yielding 45 from his eight overs, a very respectable haul at Trent Bridge.

When Joey Evison yorked Liam Hurt to seal a 21-run victory, it ended Kent's excruciating wait for the sixth knockout one-day cup in their history. Since their last victory, in 1978, Kent has made it to Lord's eight times for finals, and lost the lot. No wonder that Stevens was relieved that this year's final was played at Trent Bridge instead.

Yet if the 9,040 in the ground ended the day toasting a 46-year-old, Kent's chief hero was a mere 20 years of age.

Evison has been among the young players to benefit from the schedule of the Royal London Cup; the clashes with the Hundred have afforded him the chance to bat up the order, and for his bowling to become more prominent.

He chose an opportune moment to show off both facets of his game.

First, after Ben Compton drove the fourth ball of the match loosely to backward point, Evison provided the backdrop to Kent's 306 for six with powerful straight driving and efficient clips off his legs until he was bowled by a slower ball three runs off a century. Evison received fine support from skipper Joe Denly, whose innings was sprinkled with imperious stroke play, including clearing long on against Luke Wells.

Perhaps the racing community contributed to giving her some pleasure along the way."

Warren nominated Estimate's Ascot Gold Cup victory in 2013 as the highlight of her 70 years as an owner-breeder. "I think it was everything that she'd put into breeding horses and racing horses, achieving an ambition which is no different to any parent wanting their child to win at the Olympics. This felt the same elation as that. I think that was so satisfying because it's such an iconic race."

However, he added: "What I found totally remarkable about the Queen was her ability to get so much pleasure out of any horse, no matter what level that horse was able to achieve. If we were able to get the equivalent of a D student a C grade with best endeavour, that in itself was tremendous."



Rich reward: Darren Stevens celebrates Kent Spitfires winning the Royal London Cup (above) with Joe Denly (above right) providing the batting fireworks

Then, after swift 70s from Keaton Jennings and Steven Croft had seemed to put Lancashire in command, Evison's canny medium pace – combining accuracy with intelligent use of cutters and yorkers – ensured that his earlier work with the bat would not be in vain.

With Lancashire 153 for three in the 29th over, Evison elicited Dane Vilas to play on, before returning to complete the job. Add in an outstanding catch at deep midwicket from a George Lavelle heave and Evison made a compelling case for the toughest job in county cricket: as Stevens' successor. This was a home triumph of sorts, too: Evison left Nottinghamshire last year in pursuit of more first-team opportunities.

For all the excitement of the day – and the palpable joy of Kent's players and supporters as they lifted the trophy aloft, after an unlikely sequence of six consecutive victories – it was curious that the match did not feature anyone who was involved in the Hundred.

Instead, both counties backed the players who had got them to the final: a situation that was simultaneously commendable and regrettable. Commendable, to allow some less hallowed names the chance of a showpiece final that they had earned. But regrettable, because it also meant that some players with the potential to light-up the final – and, perhaps, to push for consideration at next year's 50-over World Cup – such as Zak Crawley and Matt Parkinson were absent. At least Crawley, like Sam Billings, Daniel Bell-Drummond and others, still made the trip to Nottingham, where they – and Stevens – could enjoy a night to savour.

'Being a cricketer is about winning trophies. This tops it off nicely'



Scoreboard

At Trent Bridge — **Kent won toss**

Kent

	R	B	4	6
BG Compton c Croft b Bailey	0	4	0	0
JDM Evison b Lamb	97	111	14	1
†OG Robinson c Lavelle b Hurt	43	48	6	0
***JL Denly** b Hurt	78	69	8	1
AJ Blake c Jennings b Bailey	38	32	4	1
DI Stevens not out	33	31	2	0
G Stewart run out	1	2	0	0
HZ Finch not out	4	4	0	0
Extras (b2 lb1 w7 nb2)	12			
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	306			

Fall 1-0 2-79 3-212 4-245 5-284 6-287.
Did not bat HW Podmore, Hamidullah Qadri, NN Gilchrist.
Bowling TE Bailey 10-0-46-2; WSA Williams 10-0-62-0; DJ Lamb 10-0-57-1; LJ Hurt 10-1-64-2; LWP Wells 8-0-53-0; SJ Croft 2-0-21-0.

Lancashire

	R	B	4	6
LWP Wells c and b Stewart	16	14	3	0
***KK Jennings** c Blake b Qadri	72	62	11	0
JJ Bohannon c Stewart b Podmore	5	21	0	0
SJ Croft c Blake b Gilchrist	72	83	7	0
DJ Vilas b Evison	11	16	0	0
RP Jones lbw b Stewart	29	46	0	0
†GID Lavelle c Evison b Gilchrist	6	8	0	0
DJ Lamb c Gilchrist b Stewart	20	14	2	1
TE Bailey b Gilchrist	16	11	1	0
LJ Hurt b Evison	12	11	1	0
WSA Williams not out	8	7	0	0
Extras (lb9 w2 nb2 p5)	18			
Total (48.4 overs)	285			

Fall 1-40 2-71 3-125 4-153 5-212 6-220 7-248 8-249 9-267 10-285.
Bowling G Stewart 7-0-42-3; NN Gilchrist 10-0-65-3; DI Stevens 8-0-45-0; HW Podmore 5-0-21-1; Hamidullah Qadri 9-0-43-1; JDM Evison 6.4-0-34-2; JL Denly 3-0-21-0.
Umpires P Pollard and R Warren.

Kent beat Lancs by 21 runs

Mickelson calls for rival tours to bury hatchet

By James Corrigan
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Greg Norman will surely raise his eyebrows, but Phil Mickelson believes LIV and the traditional tours should "come together".

On a weekend in which so many of the game's big names are doing battle at different venues, with different formats and with different agendas, one of the principle characters in golf's civil war has made his first plea for peace, pointing out to the PGA Tour that its monopoly on the elite players is over.

"The PGA Tour, for the last 20 or 30 years have had all the best players in the world. That will never be the case again. LIV Golf is here to stay," Mickelson said at the LIV event in Chicago. "The best solution is for us to come together."

This will be news to Norman, the LIV chief executive, who on Monday said his offer to negotiate with the PGA Tour had lapsed. "We now have no interest in sitting down with them, because our product is working," he said.

Jay Monahan, the PGA Tour commissioner, has been consistent in refusing to meet the Saudi-funded breakaway circuit.



Peace plea: Phil Mickelson says there is room for the PGA Tour's 'history of the game product' and LIV's 'cool, updated' approach

Mickelson is correct in his claim that the Tour's product will suffer because of LIV and made a case for the conflicting parties to enter talks and combine to complement each other's strengths.

"I think that the world of professional golf has a need for the old 'history of the game' product that the PGA Tour provides," he said. "I think that LIV provides a really cool, updated feel that is attracting a lot of younger crowds."

If Mickelson has been the poster boy for LIV, then there is no doubt that Rory McIlroy has emerged as the most vocal protagonist for the traditionalists, his debut at the Italian Open raising the Rome event to a new level.

With the Ryder Cup at Marco Simone Country Club next year, the DP World Tour is keen to increase the sport's profile in Italy and not only has McIlroy done his bit, but so too has Matt Fitzpatrick. Heading into today's final round, Fitzpatrick leads on 10 under after a third-round 69, with McIlroy (71) one behind, alongside Englishman Aaron Rai (65).

Queen involved in racing up to the end, says adviser

By Marcus Armytage **RACING CORRESPONDENT**

Queen Elizabeth II got a huge kick out of her last winner, Love Affairs at Goodwood, two days before she died, and was making plans for her horses up to the end of her life, according to her racing adviser John Warren.

Clive Cox, one of the most recent additions to the list of royal trainers, has already talked about speaking to the Queen by phone on the morning of the race and Warren, who had spent the previous weekend at Balmoral before leaving on the Monday afternoon, said: "On the Tuesday evening she was in really good form, delighted she'd had a winner, and talked about the Prime Ministers coming in and out. I can hardly believe it possible that within 48 hours the Queen had died.

"Shocking though that was, it's wonderful to know that she led a long and full life, and dutiful to the very end.

Murray craves final chance to share court with Federer

Tennis By Jeremy Wilson *in Glasgow*

Andy Murray is longing to share a court with Roger Federer for one last time at the Laver Cup, which starts in London this week.

Federer shaded their personal head-to-heads in competitive matches 14-11, including wins in the Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open finals, but, following news of his retirement, Murray (right) said he felt fortunate rather than regretful to have his career coincide with the three greatest men's players in tennis history. Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic have won 63 grand-slam titles between them and, in what will be a fitting finale, they will be European team-mates with Murray at the O2 Arena from Friday.

"Maybe I get the opportunity to share a court with him in doubles or something, that would be really special," Murray said. "I was lucky to compete against him in some of the biggest matches, in the biggest tournaments, on the biggest stages in our sport. It's incredible what he achieved. An amazing player. The longevity… the way he played the game, conducted himself. It's a sad, sad day for the sport."



Murray may face another goodbye in Glasgow today, when Great Britain complete their 2022 Davis Cup campaign with a "dead" tie against Kazakhstan following their exit from the competition on Friday against the Netherlands.

Murray, 35, admitted he did not know whether he would play Davis Cup again.

Lomax pulls the strings as Saints seek to make history

Rugby League By Ross Heppenstall *at the Totally Wicked Stadium*

History beckons for defending champions St Helens, who will bid to win an unprecedented fourth successive Grand Final when they face Leeds Rhinos at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Saints beat unfancied Salford 19-12, with two first-half tries from second-rower Joe Batchelor laying the platform. But the architect of victory was England playmaker Jonny Lomax, who had a hand in all three of their tries.

Saints will face a Rhinos side with whom they share the record of three consecutive Grand Final victories, achieved from 2007 to 2009. That Leeds beat St Helens in all three of those games – and have won four title deciders against them – adds intrigue to next weekend's clash.

Kristian Woolf, the Saints coach, bade an emotional farewell to fans in his last home game ahead of an end-of-season NRL return. He said: "We've got the class to beat anyone and it's going to be a cracking game against Leeds."

Batchelor's first-half converted double and a Lomax drop goal gave Saints a 13-6 lead, with Kallum Watkins replying for Salford.

Ryan Brierley put Salford a point behind in the second half, but Jon Bennison touched down late on to ensure the job was done for Saints, who had Morgan Knowles sin-binned for an ugly challenge on Chris Atkin which could mean he is banned for the Grand Final.

Salford, already missing key playmaker Brodie Croft, lost hooker Andy Ackers to concussion early on and head coach Paul Rowley said: "Overall we didn't throw enough at Saints and we weren't as clinical as in weeks gone by. You can't question the character, though."

Racecard and results

Hamilton Jackpot Card

Going: Soft-good to soft in places **TV:** Racing TV
Draw: Low to middle numbers best in sprints, especially on soft ground.

1.30 Novice Stakes (GBB Race) (5) 2YO 5f £3,942

1	36	**Colnago** (18) (BF) K R Burke 9 7	**C Lee 6**
2		**Concert Boy** D O'Meara 9 7	**D Tudhope 3**
3	50	**Erazmus** (69) D & N Barron 9 7	**K Stott 2**
4	34	**Installation** [V](37) (BF) R Fahey 9 7	**Oisin Orr 5**
5	8	**Smooth Red** (3) G Tuer 9 7	**O Stammers** (3) **1**
6	32	**Queenie Rooney** (18) (BF) K Dalgleish 9 2	**C Rodriguez 4**

S.P. f'cast: 15-8 Installation, **5-2** Colnago, **3-1** Queenie Rooney, **9-2** Concert Boy, **25-1** Erazmus, **33-1** Smooth Red.

2.00 Fillies' Handicap (4) 6f £6,696

1	701	**Selby's Pride** (18) (CD) T Coyle 3 9 10	**P Mathers 2**
2	732	**Little Miss Dynamo** [T](18) (D) H Palmer 3 9 6	**C Lee 5**
3	254	**Fox Hill** [B](5) (D) E Alston 6 9 6	**J Hart 3**
4	707	**Pearl Of Qatar** [H](15) (CD)(D) T Davidson 6 9 4	**P Dennis 6**
5	256	**Guest List** (72) K Scott 3 9 4	**K Stott 8**
6	221	**Roshambo** [E](46) (D) J Camacho 3 9 1	**B Robinson 11**
7	332	**Miss Bella Brand** (16) (D) Mrs I G-Leveque 4 9 1	**S Osborne** (3) **9**
8	354	**Kentucky Rose** (18) (D) K Ryan 3 8 11	**T Eaves 4**
9	255	**Iris Dancer** [B](18) (CD)(D) (BF) T Davidson 4 8 9	**R Scott 1**
10	889	**Rose Bandit** [P](18) (C)(D) T Jardine 5 8 7	**A Mullen 7**
11	560	**Soller Bay** [B](12) (D) T Easterby 4 8 7	**D Fentiman 10**

S.P. f'cast: 4-1 Roshambo, **9-2** Selby's Pride, **6-1** Little Miss Dynamo, **7-1** Fox Hill, **8-1** Guest List, Miss Bella Brand, Others.

2.30 Selling Stakes (4) 1m 1f £5,643

1	047	**Gifted Ruler** [P](49) H Palmer 5 9 2	**C Lee 1**
2	587	**Gordonstoun** [P](56) Liam Bailey 4 9 2	**D Tudhope 3**
3	505	**Grifter** [P](21) R Fahey 3 9 2	**Oisin Orr 2**
4	930	**Zuraig** [P,T](24) T Jardine 4 9 2	**A Mullen 4**
5	705	**Barneys Gift** (J20) P Kirby 3 8 11	**B Garritty 5**

S.P. f'cast: 11-10 Gifted Ruler, **4-1** Grifter, **5-1** Barneys Gift, **11-2** Zuraig, **8-1** Gordonstoun.

3.00 Handicap (5) 3YO 6f £4,158

1	576	**Matty Too** [P](19) (CD)(D) T Easterby 9 9	**D Allan 5**
2	294	**Clarets Glory** [B,E,H](32) (D) M Dods 9 9	**P Dennis 4**
3	-01	**Gentle Ellen** (45) (D) D & N Barron 9 8	**K Stott 2**
4	546	**Raydoun** (37) (D) R Fell 9 7	**J Peate** (5) **8**
5	256	**Baileys Liberty** [P](19) C & M Johnston 9 5	**C Beasley 10**
6	262	**Caleta Sunrise** [H](12) (BF) H Palmer 9 5	**C Lee 6**
7	420	**Golden Rainbow** [V](19) G Harker 9 4	**B McHugh 9**
8	740	**Miss Calculation** (13) (D) J J Quinn 9 1	**J Hart 1**
9	440	**Bonito Cavalo** (3) J Goldie 8 8	**C Hardie 7**
10	350	**The Gay Blade** [P](19) I Jardine 8 4	**A Mullen 3**

S.P. f'cast: 11-4 Gentle Ellen, **7-2** Caleta Sunrise, **7-1** Matty Too, Clarets Glory, **8-1** Baileys Liberty, **10-1** Others.

Marlborough

1.30 - **Installation** (nap)	3.30 - **Shesadabber**
2.00 - **Miss Bella Brand** (nb)	4.00 - **Clan Jock**
2.30 - **Gifted Ruler**	4.30 - **Salve Japan**
3.00 - **Gentle Ellen**	

3.30 Handicap (6) 5f £3,618

1	183	**Basholo** (13) (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 3 9 12	**S Gray 10**
2	463	**Zig Zag Zyggy** [B](18) (CD)(C)(D) J Goldie 7 9 11	**C Hardie 9**
3	221	**Shesadabber** (10) (CD)(D) M Mullineaux 6 9 10	**P Dennis 13**
4	438	**Tanasoq** (3) (D) J Goldie 9 9 9	**Shannon Watts** (7) **8**
5	121	**Birdie Bowers** (21) (D) D Thompson 5 9 8	**D Allan 11**
6	145	**Red Allure** [V](23) (CD)(D) R Menzies 7 9 7	**P Mathers 4**
7	662	**Eruption** (12) (D) T Easterby 3 9 7	**S B Kirrane** (3) **5**
8	59U	**Kraken Power** (3) (C) J Goldie 4 9 6	**P Mulrennan 1**
9	279	**Sunset Glow** (55) G Tuer 4 9 5	**O Stammers** (3) **3**
10	903	**Captain Corcoran** [H](47) (D) (BF) E Alston 5 9 3	**K Stott 12**
11	010	**Burtonlodge Beauty** [P](3) (CD) Miss L Perratt 3 9 3	**Mark Winn** (7) **2**
12	977	**Nodsasgoodasawink** [P](3) Miss L Perratt 4 9 0	**JP Sullivan 6**
13	858	**Stroxx** [B](35) Liam Bailey 5 8 12	**J Hart 7**

S.P. f'cast: 9-2 Shesadabber, **5-1** Birdie Bowers, **7-1** Others.

4.00 Handicap (6) 1m 4f £3,618

1	122	**Clan Jock** (18) (C) (BF) J Goldie 5 9 11	**C Hardie 7**
2	757	**Simple Star** [T](J36) I Jardine 4 9 11	**D Allan 8**
3	241	**Haven Lady** [B](16) (C)(D) J J Quinn 4 9 8	**J Hart 9**
4	535	**Cuban Cigar** [P](32) L Russell 4 9 6	**Oisin Orr 5**
5	214	**Ralphy Boy Two** [H](23) (CD) (BF) Ewan Whillans 5 9 5	**R Scott 10**
6	379	**Lucky Draw** (24) (D) E De Giles 5 9 2	**Laura Coughlan** (5) **6**
7	-07	**Proton** (50) T Davidson 6 9 2	**P Dennis 1**
8	663	**Lochnaver** [H](23) (C) J Goldie 4 8 13	**P Mulrennan 3**
9	055	**Millie The Minx** [B](J22) (CD)(C) D Sayer 8 8 10	**JP Sullivan 2**
10	447	**Starlyte** [P](19) Miss L Perratt 5 8 9	**Mark Winn** (7) **4**

S.P. f'cast: 9-4 Clan Jock, **7-2** Haven Lady, **5-1** Others.

4.30 Handicap (5) 3YO 1m 3f £4,158

1	-51	**Kanzino** (19) K R Burke 9 9	**C Lee 5**
2	463	**Super Stars** (13) C & M Johnston 9 6	**J Hart 10**
3	643	**A La Francaise** (10) J Goldie 9 4	**P Mulrennan 1**
4	283	**Sylvia Beach** (31) D O'Meara 9 4	**D Tudhope 2**
5	-77	**Lechro** (108) J Candlish 9 3	**C Beasley 11**
6	055	**Zephlyn** (50) Ewan Whillans 9 2	**B McHugh 8**
7	532	**Salve Japan** (19) H Palmer 9 0	**S Osborne** (3) **3**
8	9-7	**Lady Hamilton** (211) W Storey 8 10	**C Hardie 7**
9	583	**Monroe Gold** (32) T Jardine 8 10	**A Mullen 6**
10	762	**Tafsir** (25) J Goldie 8 4	**Amie Waugh** (5) **9**
11	580	**Pasha Bay** (6) Miss L Perratt 8 4	**JP Sullivan 4**

S.P. f'cast: 11-4 A La Francaise, **5-1** Salve Japan, Super Stars, **11-2** Kanzino, **6-1** Sylvia Beach, **10-1** Tafsir, **12-1** Others.

Results

Ayr
Going: Good
1.20 (1m 1h'cap): **Gweedore** (J Hart 12-1) 1; **What's The Story** (13-2) 2; **Revich** (3-1F) 3. 14 ran. nk, nk. (K Scott).
1.55 (1m2f): **Royal Champion** (J Mitchell 9-4) 1; **Euchen Glen** (7-1) 2; **Stormy Antarctic** (25-1) 3. Phantom Flight 10-11F. 11 ran. 5½, 1¼. (R Varian). NR: Good Show.
2.30 (6f h'cap): **Dusky Lord** (J Mitchell 14-1) 1; **Woven** (12-1) 2; **Bernardo O'Reilly** (20-1) 3; **Good Earth** (22-1) 4. Emperor Spirit 6-1F. 25 ran. 3l, nk, 1½. (R Varian).
3.05 (6f): **Barefoot Angel** (P Mulrennan 20-1) 1; **Believing** (12-1) 2; **Queen Me** (6-4F) 3. 12 ran. nk, ¾. (R Fahey). NR: Immortal Beauty.
3.40 (6f h'cap): **Summerghand** (D Tudhope 12-1) 1; **Commanche Falls** (10-1) 2; **Juan Les Pins** (28-1) 3; **Lucky Man** (18-1) 4. Khanjar 9-2F. 24 ran. 1l, ½, nk. (D O'Meara). NR: Honey Sweet.
4.15 (1m h'cap): **Metal Merchant** (Rossa Ryan 12-1) 1; **Pol Roger** (11-2) 2; **Have Secret** (5-1) 3. Animate 6-4F. 11 ran. 2¾, nk. (M Channon). NRs: Disputed, Roll It In Glitter.
4.45 (7f50yds h'cap): **Abduction** (P Mulrennan 15-2) 1; **Brazen Bolt** (10-3) 2; **Gabrial The Devil** (16-1) 3. Judgment Call 16-5F. 13 ran. hd, 1l. (J Goldie). NR: Chookie Dunedin.
5.20 (1m5f26yds h'cap): **Aimeric** (J Mitchell 11-4F) 1; **Heights Of Abraham** (40-1) 2; **Wor Willie** (11-2) 3. 15 ran. shd, 1l. (R Varian).
Jackpot: Not won, pool of £1,350.72 carried over. **Placepot:** £1,924.20. **Quadpot:** £172.50.

Catterick
Going: Good to soft
1.48 (7f6yds h'cap): **Spioradalta** (D Costello 10-1) 1; **Valstar** (22-1) 2; **Hunkpapa** (4-1) 3. Solitary Trees 13-8F. 10 ran. ¾, 1l. (M Walford). NR: Aihawawi.
2.23 (5f212yds mdn): **Pop World** (P Dennis 2-1F) 1; **The Compas Man** (28-1) 2; **We'renotreallyhere** (9-4) 3. 8 ran. 2½, 1¾. (M Dods).
2.58 (5f212yds h'cap): **Portelet Bay** (O Lewis 15-2) 1; **Final Account** (25-1) 2; **Wade's Magic** (10-3) 3. Blazing Son 85-40F. 11 ran. ¾, hd. (P Evans). NR: Dapper Man.
3.33 (5f h'cap): **Strength 'n Honour** (S Donohoe 18-1) 1; **Castan** (16-5) 2; **Doctor Mozart** (11-1) 3. Kodi Dancer 5-2F. 10 ran. nk, ¾. (C Fellowes). NR: Lumacho.
4.08 (1m5f192yds h'cap): **Zimmerman** (S B Kirrane 9-2) 1; **Melburnian** (7-2) 2; **Magna Moralia** (11-1) 3. Qoya 5-2F. 8 ran. nk, 2¼. (T Easterby).
4.40 (7f6yds h'cap): **Josiebond** (D Costello 8-1) 1; **Written Broadcast** (14-1) 2; **How Bizarre** (11-1) 3. Breckland 2-1F. 12 ran. 1l, 5l. (M Walford).
5.15 (7f6yds h'cap): **Desert Dream** (D Costello 11-2) 1; **Mr Strutter** (3-1F) 2; **Stoney Lane** (4-1) 3. 12 ran. ¾, ½. (S Spencer).
5.50 (1m4f13yds h'cap): **Nietzsche** (B Robinson 6-1) 1; **Two Brothers** (6-1) 2; **Ice House** (10-1) 3. Licit 3-1F. 9 ran. nk, 3½. (B Ellison). NR: Ochil House.
Placepot: £1,088.60. **Quadpot:** £255.80.

Newbury
Going: Good
1.10 (7f nov): **Exoplanet** (David Egan 5-2F) 1; **Bussento** (10-3) 2; **Conquistador** (14-1) 3. 15 ran. nk, 4l. (R Varian).
1.40 (1m3f): **Stay Alert** (David Egan 5-1) 1; **Fancy Man** (12-1) 2; **Dubai Future** (4-1) 3. Siskany 5-2F. 9 ran. nk, nk. (H Morrison).
2.15 (5f34yds): **Mitbaahy** (David Egan 9-2) 1; **Teresa Mendoza** (16-1) 2; **Manaccan** (11-4F) 3. 12 ran. nk, ns. (R Varian). NR: White Lavender.
2.50 (6f): **Sakheer** (David Egan 4-5F) 1; **Rousing Encore** (20-1) 2; **Charyn** (12-1) 3. 7 ran. 3½, ¾. (R Varian). **3.25** (1m2f h'cap): **Marching Army** (L Steward 22-1) 1; **Ottoman Fleet** (11-2) 2; **Warren Point** (5-2F) 3. 13 ran. nk, 2l. (Sin Suroor). **4.00** (7f nov): **Afterlife** (M Harley 13-2) 1; **Caragio** (12-1) 2; **Bloomwithgrace** (18-1) 3. Palamon 2-1F. 14 ran. nk, ¾. (J & T Gosden). NR: Finest Leader. **4.35** (1m4f h'cap): **Sir Rumi** (P Dobbs 17-2) 1; **Tartan Chief** (11-2) 2; **La Puiga** (16-1) 3. Age Of Sail 4-1F. 14 ran. nk, 1¾. (R Hannon). NRs: Frontispiece, Noble Masquerade, Sword Beach. **5.10** (7f h'cap): **Rainbow Fire** (N Callan 25-1) 1; **Lyndon B** (10-1) 2; **Spanish Star** (28-1) 3; **King Of Jungle** (5-1F) 4. 19 ran. nk, nk, 2l. (M Botti). NR: Dream Show. **Placepot:** £421.80. **Quadpot:** £45.20.

Newmarket
Going: Good
1.31 (1m nov): **Trust The Stars** (H Crouch 9-1) 1; **Chelsea Green** (13-2) 2; **Therapist** (7-1) 3. Fortis Regina 5-2F. 13 ran. ½, 1l. (R Beckett). **2.06** (1m h'cap): **Al Husn** (D O'Neill 9-2) 1; **Eidikos** (12-1) 2; **Tamaraama** (6-1) 3. Washraa 9-4F. 8 ran. 1¼, 2½. (R Varian). **2.41** (7f h'cap): **Astral Beau** (S W Kelly 17-2) 1; **Sense Of Power** (7-2) 2; **Mount Kosciuszko** (9-1) 3. Bell Shot 11-4F. 12 ran. nk, nk. (Mrs P Sly). **3.16** (6f h'cap): **Equiano Springs** (T P Queally 10-3F) 1; **Celsius** (18-1) 2; **Shark Two One** (16-1) 3. 11 ran. ¾, ½. (T Tate). NR: Abate. **3.51** (2m2f h'cap): **Rajinsky** (H Davies 9-2) 1; **Prince Imperial** (12-1) 2; **Call My Bluff** (13-2) 3. Duke Of Verona 4-1F. 10 ran. 1½, nk. (H Palmer). **4.26** (1m2f h'cap): **Value Theory** (D Muscutt 11-4F) 1; **Suzy's Shoes** (13-2) 2; **Thebeautifulgame** (10-1) 3. 8 ran. 3½, ns. (C & M Johnston). **5.01** (1m1f h'cap): **The Menstone Gem** (Mr M W Brown 28-1) 1; **Masque Of Anarchy** (20-1) 2; **Mark Of Respect** (7-1) 3; **Voltaic** (20-1) 4. Fast Steps 10-3F. 20 ran. 1½, 1¾. 3l. (Craig Lidster).
Placepot: £551.80. **Quadpot:** £38.50.

Wolverhampton
Going: Standard
4.50 (1m1f104yds h'cap): **Mirabello Bay** (L Keniry 18-1) 1; **Cariad** (10-1F) 2; **Pink Lily** (33-1) 3. 7 ran. nk, 1¾. (J S Moore). **5.25** (1m142yds nov): **Lion Kingdom** (B Sayette 7-2) 1; **Cobalt Blue** (5-4F) 2; **Maid In Kentucky** (12-1) 3. 10 ran. 1¼, 1½. (J Fanshawe).
5.55 (6f20yds h'cap): **Newyorkstateofmind** (S Cherchi 4-1) 1; **Sarah's Verse** (15-2) 2; **Q Twenty Boy** (25-1) 3. Eldeyaar 11-4F. 11 ran. ¾, 2l. (W Muir & C Grassick).
6.30 (6f20yds sell): **Wasdale** (S Cherchi 15-2) 1; **Man Made Of Smoke** (6-1) 2; **Bojink** (11-1) 3. Explicit 8-13F. 7 ran. 1¾, 1½. (J Camacho). NR: Elongate.
7.00 (6f20yds h'cap): **Grigsy** (Grace McEntee 5-1) 1; **Babe Alicious** (7-2) 2; **Nacho** (15-2) 3. Billian 16-5F. 9 ran. nk, 1½. (J Butler). NRs: Brave Display, Hotter In Time, Showdiemlad.

Plumpton

1.50 - **Lusaka**	3.50 - **Barest Of Margins**
2.20 - **Right Destination**	4.20 - **Boomtime Banker**
2.50 - **Mr Freedom**	4.50 - **Invictus De Brion**
3.20 - **Thibault**	

Whistler's Nap
Thibault (3.20 Plumpton) is today's nap for Whistler (Marcus Armytage) of Telegraph Sport.

For all today's race cards go to Telegraph.co.uk/racecards or The Telegraph app

Database

Rugby Union

Gallagher Premiership
Northampton 38 London Irish 22
Northampton: A Waller (E Iyogun 38), O Sleightholme, M Proctor, P Hill (A Petch 50), R Hutchinson (T Litchfield 61), T Collins (C Skosan 74), G Furbank, A Mitchell (C Braley 73), S Matavesi (M Haywood 58), J Grayson, L Salakaia-Loto (B Nansen 73), A Moon, A Coles, A Hinkley (A Scott-Young 55), J Augustus.
London Irish: H Arundell, B Loader, C Rona, B Janse Van Rensburg (L Morisi 74), O Hassell-Collins, P Jackson, B White, F Gigena (D Fischetti 27), M Cornish (I Miller 69), L Chavatatama (C Parker 57), R Simmons, A Coleman (A Ratuniyarawa 32), B Donnell, T Pearson, M Rogerson (C Cunninghame-South 69).
Scores: 5-0 Augustus try (8 mins); **7-0** J. Grayson con (9); **10-0** J. Grayson pen (37); **10-3** Jackson pen (43); **15-3** O. Sleighthorne try (51); **20-3** Mitchell try (54); **22-3** J. Grayson con (55); **25-3** J. Grayson pen (60); **25-8** Joseph try (62); **25-15** Penalty try (66); **28-15** Furbank pen (68); **33-15** Furbank try (71); **35-15** Furbank con (72); **38-15** Furbank pen (76); **38-20** Hassell-Collins try (80); **38-22** Englefield con (80).
HT: 10-0. **Referee:** Luke Pearce.

Wasps 8 Bristol 23
Wasps: A Crossdale (W Haydon-Wood 66), Z Kibirige, S Spink, B Odendaal (R Mills 60), J Bassett, C Atkinson, W Porter (D Robson 50), R Hislop (T West 50), T Cruse (D Frost 60), J Ryan (B Alo 64), J Launchbury, K McDonald (T Cardall 68), T Willis, J Willis, A Barbeary (N Carr 60).
Bristol: C Piutau, L Morahan, P O'Connor, S Bedlow, J Bates (R Lane 15), C Sheedy, H Randall (A Uren 56), J Woolmore (Y Thomas 53), W Capon (B Byrne 53), K Sinckler (M Lahiff 53), J Joyce, C Vui, S Jeffries, J Heenan (S Lewis 58), M Bradbury (E Holmes 60).
Scores: 5-0 Cruse try (5 mins); **5-3** Sheedy pen (9); **5-8** Sheedy try (19); **5-10** Sheedy con (20); **8-10** Atkinson pen (44); **8-13** Sheedy pen (54); **8-18** Bradbury try (59); **8-20** Sheedy con (60); **8-23** Sheedy drop goal (77). **HT:** 5-10. **Referee:** Karl Dickson.

Bath 20 Sale 37
Harlequins 27 Saracens 30
Leicester 36 Newcastle 21

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Sale	2	2	0	0	2	66	42	10
Bristol	2	2	0	0	1	54	37	9
Leicester	2	1	0	1	2	56	45	6
Northampton	2	1	0	1	2	60	51	6
Harlequins	2	1	0	1	2	67	61	6
London Irish	2	1	0	1	1	67	52	5
Gloucester	1	1	0	0	1	27	21	5
Saracens	1	1	0	0	1	30	27	5
Exeter	1	1	0	0	0	24	20	4
Bath	2	0	0	2	1	49	68	1
Wasps	2	0	0	2	1	29	50	1
Newcastle	2	0	0	2	1	52	76	1
Worcester	1	0	0	1	0	14	45	0

RFU CHAMPIONSHIP: Ampthill 17 Ealing 32-Bedford 49 London Scottish 36-Hartpury 16 Doncaster 34-Jersey Reds 40 Coventry 14-Richmond 32 Caldy 34.

United Rugby Championship
Lions 15 Blue Bulls 31
Lions—T: Q. Horn, Louw. **C:** Hendrikse. **P:** Hendrikse.
Blue Bulls—T: Coetzee, Hendricks, Wessels. **C:** C. Smith, Steyn. **P:** C. Smith (4). **HT:** 8-15.

Scarlets 23 Ospreys 23
Scarlets—T: J. Williams, Costelow. **C:** Costelow (2). **P:** Costelow (3). **Ospreys—T:** Anscombe, Griffiths. **C:** Anscombe, Walsh. **P:** Anscombe (3).
HT: 6-13.

Zebre 29 Leinster 33
Zebre—T: Kriel, Bruno, Gesi, Pelser, Smith. **C:** Eden (2).
Leinster—T: McGrath, Ruddock (2), Jenkins, Kearney. **C:** R. Byrne (4). **HT:** 10

Grealish grateful for Guardiola leap of faith

By Mike McGrath *at Molineux*

Wolves 0

Manchester City 3

Grealish 1, Haaland 16, Foden 69

Having cost £100 million, Jack Grealish has come to accept he will always have questions asked of his form. By his own standards, it has dipped this season but he wasted little time here, just 55 seconds in fact, in returning it to where he wants it to be.

It takes some doing to upstage Erling Haaland, who inevitably added the second goal, but Grealish revels in his role as pantomime villain. His every touch was jeered by Wolves supporters for his Aston Villa heritage and later for being the victim of Nathan Collins's kick to the stomach that brought a red card.

Pep Guardiola had suggested the Premier League's most expensive signing was not just at Manchester City for goals and assists, his point being that he draws fouls – or hair-pulling in the case of Atletico Madrid last season – and can drag defences out of shape.

Yet this was a reminder of Grealish's capabilities. With his confidence up, he glides past defenders and can be the focal point of City's extraordinary forward line. His performance took City back to the top of the Premier League, at least until Arsenal play today.

"It was a long time coming and nice to get off the mark," Grealish said. "Rightly so, people have been asking questions. I should be scoring more and getting more assists. I am always going to have people talking about me with the money that was spent on me, but all my career I haven't scored enough goals. I do want to add that to my game.

"It is nice when Pep defends me. He has been brilliant with me. I probably have to thank him because he gave me the opportunity today after my performance on Wednesday [against Borussia Dortmund] because it probably wasn't the best. I am thankful to him."



Grealish took his goal by finishing off an attack assisted by Kevin De Bruyne after the Belgium playmaker started the original move. Phil Foden backheeled into De Bruyne's path and his cross bypassed Haaland and found Grealish in front of goal, with his close-range finish going in off the post. Grealish has been hampered by an injury picked up in the second game of the season, against Bournemouth, which ruled him out for a few weeks. He has not been happy with his comeback matches in the Champions League but this fixture was the perfect way to play his way back to form.

"You pay a lot for a transfer, they have to do incredible things," Guardiola said. "He has to be who he is, that is all. Everyone has good moments and bad moments. The important thing is, 'I am Jack Grealish, I play like I am. I go there with a good mentality and try to do the best for myself to help all of us'. That is all I want for him and everyone."

After his opener, City were cruising after 16 minutes when Haaland struck, making him the first player to score in his first four away games in the Premier League. It is now more than a month since he played a game and failed to find the net, and such is the ease and regularity of his scoring, it is now expected.



Central figure: Jack Grealish celebrates his early goal (left) but is then fouled by Nathan Collins, who was shown a red card

His 14th of the season, in 10 games, was of his own making. As Wolves defenders backed away, Haaland carried the ball towards the penalty area and bobbled a shot accurately into the bottom corner. Nobody can stop him at the moment. As he celebrated his goal he cupped his ear to the City supporters and pointed in their direction.

"What a waste of money," sang the Wolves fans when he trod on the ball later in the match. Even staring at defeat they had a sense of humour.

His record since leaving Red Bull Salzburg now stands at an incredible rate of 100 goals from 99 games.

Wolves' hopes of a way back into the match were virtually ended with little over half an hour gone when Collins, although going for the ball, went studs-up into Grealish's stomach, infuriating the Wolves fans and leaving Collins exasperated. But it was a reckless challenge and Var could not help them.

Foden added the third goal in the second half, finishing from close range from De Bruyne's cross after Haaland had got involved in build-up play rather than staying in the box as he normally does.

It was Foden's last action as Guardiola started to take off players and rest some legs, with the job already done. Despite Haaland's goal record, Guardiola believes all players should be contributing with goals.

"We need players always when we arrive there, players have permission to open the door and go into the box," he said. "Nobody is not allowed to do it there.

"Erling continues to score goals, that's top. Julian [Alvarez] had a chance, that's top. But the other ones need to have the desire, the hunger and the mentality to score goals as well."

Wolves only have one victory this season, against Southampton, and despite looking comfortable on the ball they lack a focal point to their attack. Diego Costa building up his match-fitness cannot come quickly enough. He has been training away from the first team to get up to speed and the international break should help him.

"He didn't train with the team all week so it will take time for him to be ready to compete at this level," Bruno Lage, the Wolves manager, said. "He is fit, he doesn't have any problems, but he spent a long time without playing.

"I hope in two weeks he can be a solution on the bench."

Wolves (4-3-3) Sa 5; Ait-Nouri 5 (Semedo 81), Kilman 5, Collins 4, Jonny 5; Neves 6, Moutinho 5, Nunes 6; Neto 6 (Campbell 87), Podence 5 (Traore 70), Guedes 5 (Hwang 70). **Subs** Sarkic (g), Mosquera, Toti, Ronan, Bueno. **Booked** Nunes, Neves. **Sent off** Collins.
Man City (4-3-3) Ederson 6; Stones 6, Dias 7, Akanji 7, Cancelo 6; Bernardo 7 (Alvarez 71), Rodri 7 (Gomez 81), De Bruyne 8 (Gundogan 71); Grealish 8 (Palmer 77), Haaland 7, Foden 7 (Mahrez 70). **Subs** Ortega (g), Carson (g), Walker, Ake. **Booked** Rodri.
Referee Anthony Taylor (Cheshire).
Att 31,578.

Sky Bet Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheff Utd	10	4	0	0	11	1	3	2	1	8	4	14	23
Norwich	10	4	2	0	12	5	1	2	2	4	4	7	20
Reading	10	4	0	1	8	5	2	0	3	2	9	-4	18
Burnley	10	2	3	0	9	6	2	2	1	8	4	7	17
Sunderland	10	1	2	1	6	4	3	1	2	10	7	5	15
QPR	10	2	2	1	7	5	2	1	2	7	6	3	15
Blackburn	10	3	0	2	7	5	2	0	3	4	8	-2	15
Bristol City	10	3	0	1	8	3	1	2	3	11	13	3	14
Watford	10	3	1	1	8	6	0	4	1	3	5	0	14
Rotherham	8	3	2	0	11	2	0	2	1	1	4	6	13
Luton	10	1	3	2	6	6	2	1	1	5	4	1	13
Wigan	9	0	3	2	3	8	3	1	0	6	3	-2	13
Millwall	10	4	0	2	9	6	0	1	3	2	8	-3	13
Stoke	10	1	2	1	5	4	2	1	3	6	7	0	12
Preston	10	0	4	2	1	4	2	2	0	2	0	-1	12
Swansea	10	2	1	3	6	8	1	2	1	4	4	-2	12
Birmingham	10	1	2	2	4	5	2	1	2	4	5	-2	12
Cardiff	10	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	4	4	9	-4	11
Blackpool	10	1	1	2	4	5	2	1	3	6	10	-5	11
Hull	10	3	0	2	7	9	0	2	3	4	12	-10	11
West Brom	10	1	3	1	9	7	0	4	1	6	7	1	10
Middlesbro	9	2	2	1	8	7	0	1	3	5	8	-2	9
Huddersfld	9	2	1	3	7	7	0	0	3	2	6	-4	7
Coventry	7	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	3	7	12	-6	3

Birmingham ..... (0) **0** **Coventry** ..... (0) **0**
16,633

Birmingham: Ruddy, Colin, Sanderson, Trusty, Williams, Bielik, Chong, Graham, Bacuna (Meljbr 67), Deeney (Jutkiewicz 79), Hogan. **Subs not used:** Etheridge, Leko, James, Bellingham, Hall. **Booked:** Sanderson 87.
Coventry: Wilson, Doyle, McFadzean, Panzo, Dabo, Allen (Palmer 77), Hamer, Sheaf, Bidwell, Godden (Walker 77), Gyokeres. **Subs not used:** Moore, Waghorn, Kane, Eccles, Burroughs. **Booked:** Sheaf 54, Panzo 73, Dabo 87. **Sent-off:** Hamer 89.
Referee: Graham Scott

Burnley ..... (1) **2** **Bristol City** ..... (1) **1**
Benson 4 Wells 27
Rodriguez 67

Burnley: Muric, Roberts, Harwood-Bellis, Beyer, Maatsen (Vitinho 88), Cullen, Cork, Benson (Gudmundsson 53), Brownhill, Tella (Zaroury 66), Rodriguez (Dervisoglu 88). **Subs not used:** Egan-Riley, Peacock-Farrell, Bastien. **Booked:** Cork 89.
Bristol City: Bentley, Vyner, Naismith, Atkinson (Martin 79), Sykes, James (Massengo 76), Scott (Williams 46), Dasilva, Weimann, Wells, Conway (Semenyo 46). **Subs not used:** King, O'Leary, Tanner. **Booked:** Scott 32.
Referee: Oliver Langford

Huddersfield ..... (1) **1** **Cardiff** ..... (0) **0**
Rhodes 8 19,193

Huddersfield: Nicholls, Turton, Lees, Helik, Nakayama, Kasumu, Camara, Holmes (Thomas 80), Anjorin (Ward 46), Rudoni (Jones 58), Rhodes (Mbete-Tabu 90). **Subs not used:** Mahoney, Kesler, Bilokapic. **Booked:** Kasumu 69, Jones 76, Nicholls 90.
Cardiff: Allsop, Romeo (Colwill 70), Ng (Sang 83), Kipre, Simpson, Nkounkou (Harris 46), Philogene-Bidace (Sawyers 46), Ribeiro (Op 90), Wintle, O'Dowda, Robinson. **Subs not used:** Nelson, Alnwick.
Referee: Dean Whitestone

Luton ..... (0) **2** **Blackburn** ..... (0) **0**
Morris 58 9,839
Burke 67

Luton: Horvath, Burke, Lockyer, Potts, Bree, Lansbury (Freeman 75), Clark (Osho 90), Bell, Campbell, Woodrow (Jerome 75), Morris (Onyedinma 89). **Subs not used:** Watson, Isted, Doughty. **Booked:** Morris 41, Lockyer 61.
Blackburn: Kaminski, Hyam, Ayala, Wharton, Carter (Brittain 59), Travis, Morton (Buckley 70), Pickering, Dolan (Hirst 59), Hedges, Brereton. **Subs not used:** Edun, Pears, Dack, Phillips. **Booked:** Travis 45, Brittain 61. **Referee:** Josh Smith

Middlesbro ..... (1) **L** **Rotherham** ..... (1) **L**
Middlesbrough: Steffen, Dijksteel, Fry, Clarke, Jones, Crooks, Howson, McGree, Giles, Rodrigo Muniz, Watmore. **Subs not used:** Luongo, Mowatt, Smith, McNair, Foss, Roberts, Bola.
Rotherham: Johansson, Harding, Humphreys, Wood, Barlaser, Norton-Cuffy, Rathbone, Wiles, Bramall, Ogbene, Washington. **Subs not used:** McCart, High, Eaves, Kelly, Bola, Lindsay, Vickers.
Referee: Tim Robinson

Millwall ..... (1) **2** **Blackpool** ..... (1) **1**
Grimshaw 14 (og) Patino 33
Afobe 63 11,463

Millwall: Long, Cresswell, Cooper, Wallace, Shackleton, Mitchell, Styles, Malone, Honeyman (McNamara 78), Afobe, Flemming (Bradshaw 88). **Subs not used:** Evans, Burey, Voglsammer, Saville, Bialkowski. **Booked:** Cooper 7, Wallace 68.
Blackpool: Grimshaw, Ekpiteta, Thorniley, Husband (Hamilton 81), Connolly (Lawrence-Gabriel 72), Dougall, Patino (Carey 89), Thompson, Corbeanu, Yates (Poveda-Ocampo 72), Lavery. **Subs not used:** Maxwell, Williams, Garbutt. **Booked:** Patino 60, Corbeanu 90.
Referee: Darren Bond

Norwich ..... (0) **1** **West Brom** ..... (1) **1**
Byram 68 O'Shea 9
26,303

Norwich: Krul, Aarons, Omobamidele, Hanley, Byram, Nunez (Dowell 78), McLean, Gabriel Sara (Hernandez 60), Sargent, Pukki, Ramsey (Cantwell 88). **Subs not used:** Gibson, Hugill, Sinani, McGovern. **Booked:** Aarons 58.
West Brom: Button, Furlong, O'Shea, Townsend, Pieters, Livermore, Molumby (Phillips 90), Wallace, Swift, Diangana (Reach 87), Thomas-Asante (Ahearne-Grant 78). **Subs not used:** Kelly, Palmer, Gardner-Hickman, Yokuslu. **Booked:** Furlong 85.
Referee: Thomas Bramall

Preston ..... (0) **0** **Sheff Utd** ..... (1) **2**
Ndiaye 40
McBurnie 75
18,412

Preston North End: Woodman, Storey, Lindsay, Hughes, Whiteman, Potts (Ledson 82), McCann (Johnson 69), Browne, Fernandez (Brady 69), Parrott (Maguire 82), Jakobsen (Evans 69). **Subs not used:** Cunningham, Cornell. **Booked:** Lindsay 15.
Sheff Utd: Foderingham, Ahmedhodzic, Egan, Basham, Baldock, Ndiaye (McAtee 90), Berge, Norwood, Norrington-Davies, Brewster (Doyle 69), McBurnie (Sharp 82). **Subs not used:** Khadra, Gordon, Brooks, Amissah. **Booked:** Egan 73, McBurnie 76, Norwood 90.
Referee: Jeremy Simpson

QPR ..... (0) **0** **Stoke** ..... (0) **0**
14,174

QPR: Dieng, Laird, Balogun, Dunne, Paal, Dozzell (Dykes 46), Field, Johansen (Iroegbunam 78), Willock, Roberts (Adomah 78), Chair. **Subs not used:** Kakay, Archer, Bonne, Masterson. **Booked:** Balogun 90.
Stoke: Bursik, Taylor, Flint, Fox, Wilmot, L Baker, Thompson (Laurent 75), Smallbone, Fosu, Delap (Powell 66), Gayle (Campbell 67). **Subs not used:** M Baker, Wright-Phillips, Fielding, Sparrow. **Booked:** Taylor 87, Bursik 90.
Referee: Matthew Donohue

Swansea ..... (0) **3** **Hull** ..... (0) **0**
Manning 61 15,207
Cundle 64
Piroe 85

Swansea: Benda, Wood-Gordon, Naughton, Cabango, Sorinola (Stevens 90), Allen (Cundle 31), Grimes, Manning, Fulton, Cooper (Okoflex 90), Piroe (Obafemi 88). **Subs not used:** Darikwa, Gallifa, Ntcham. **Booked:** Wood-Gordon 77.
Hull: Baxter, Coyle, Tobias Figueiredo, Greaves, Elder, Seri (Woods 75), Slater, Vale (Longman 67), Tufan, Pelkas (Docherty 75), Estupinan (Christie 82). **Subs not used:** Ingram, McLoughlin, Smith. **Booked:** Slater 45, Docherty 79.
Referee: Keith Stroud

Watford ..... (1) **2** **Sunderland** ..... (1) **2**
Davis 34 Alese 45
O'Nien 62 (og) Bennette 87
19,767

Watford: Bachmann, Cathcart (Kabasele 84), Troost-Ekong, Hause, Joao Pedro, Choudhury, Kayembe, Kamara (Bayo 73), Sema, Davis (Gosling 81), Asprilla. **Subs not used:** Kalu, Sierralta, Okoye, Hungbo.
Sunderland: Patterson, Gooch, O'Nien, Bath, Alese, Roberts, Neil (Dajaku 72), Evans (Matete 79), Clarke (Bennette 73), Embleton (Diallo 63), Pritchard (Ba 79). **Subs not used:** Bass, Hume. **Booked:** Roberts 59, Evans 61, Bennette 88, Matete 90.
Referee: John Busby

Wigan ..... (0) **0** **Reading** ..... (0) **1**
Ince 63
10,113

Wigan: Amos, Darikwa (Scully 83), Whatmough, Tilt, McClean, Power, Shinnie, Lang, Keane (Naylor 83), Assgaard (Broadhead 61), Magennis (Wyke 60). **Subs not used:** Jones, Kerr, Fletcher. **Booked:** Shinnie 36, Wyke 83, Naylor 87.
Reading: Lumley, Yiadom, Holmes, McIntyre, Hoilett (Salif 87), Hendrick, Hutchinson, Baba, Ince (Carroll 90), Forrari (N'Diaye 78), Lucas Joao (Meite 78). **Subs not used:** Guinness-Walker, Bouzanis, Craig. **Booked:** Baba 67, Yiadom 90.
Referee: David Webb

Results and fixtures

Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	7	3	0	0	14	2	2	2	0	9	4	17	17
Tottenham	7	4	0	0	13	4	1	2	0	5	3	11	17
Arsenal	6	3	0	0	8	4	2	0	1	6	3	7	15
Brighton	6	2	1	0	6	2	2	0	1	5	3	6	13
Man Utd	6	2	0	1	6	4	2	0	1	2	4	0	12
Fulham	7	2	1	0	7	5	1	1	2	5	6	1	11
Chelsea	6	2	1	0	6	4	1	0	2	2	5	-1	10
Liverpool	6	2	1	0	12	2	0	2	1	3	4	9	9
Brentford	6	2	1	0	10	3	0	2	1	5	6	6	9
Newcastle	7	1	3	0	6	4	0	2	1	2	3	1	8
Leeds	6	2	1	0	6	2	0	1	2	4	8	0	8
Bournemouth	7	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	4	16	-13	8
Southmptn	7	1	1	1	4	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	7
Aston Villa	7	2	1	1	4	3	0	0	3	2	7	-4	7
Crystal P	6	1	1	1	4	4	0	2	1	3	5	-2	6
Wolves	7	1	2	1	2	4	0	1	2	1	3	-4	6
Everton	6	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	4	-2	4
West Ham	6	0	1	2	1	5	1	0	2	2	3	-5	4
Nottm For	7	1	0	3	5	8	0	1	2	1	9	-11	4
Leicester	7	0	1	2	3	5	0	0	4	7	17	-12	1

Newcastle ..... (0) **1** **Bournemouth** ..... (0) **1**
Isak 67 (pen) Billing 62
52,238
Wolves ..... (0) **0** **Man City** ..... (2) **3**
Grealish 1
31,578 Haaland 16, Foden 69

Tottenham ..... (2) **6** **Leicester** ..... (2) **2**
Kane 8 Tielemans 6 (pen)
Dier 21 Maddison 41
Bentancur 47 61,450
Son 73, 84, 86

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ipswich	9	2	2	0	8	3	4	1	0	10	3	12	21
Portsmouth	9	3	2	0	11	5	3	1	0	8	3	11	21
Plymouth	9	4	0	0	6	0	2	1	2	10	11	5	19
Sheff Wed	9	2	2	1	11	7	3	0	1	6	2	8	17
Bolton	9	4	0	1	8	3	1	2	1	3	3	5	17
Barnsley	9	2	1	1	5	4	2	1	2	8	5	4	14
Derby	9	4	0	1	9	6	0	2	2	0	3	0	14
Lincoln City	9	1	3	0	6	4	2	1	2	8	10	0	13
Cambridge U	9	4	0	1	9	7	0	1	3	3	8	-3	13
Peterboro	9	3	0	1	9	1	1	0	4	5	9	4	12
Fleetwood	9	1	4	0	4	3	1	2	1	5	5	1	12
Shrewsbury	9	1	1	2	3	6	2	2	1	6	4	-1	12
Port Vale	9	2	2	1	6	5	1	1	2	4	7	-2	12
Charlton	9	2	2	0	8	3	0	3	2	5	8	2	11
Exeter	9	3	0	2	8	4	0	2	2	4	6	2	11
Wycombe	9	2	1	1	6	3	1	1	3	6	9	0	11
Accringtn S	9	1	3	1	7	8	1	1	2	3	4	-2	10
MK Dons	9	1	1	2	3	5	2	0	3	6	6	-2	10
Oxford Utd	9	2	1	2	6	6	1	0	3	2	4	-2	10
Cheltenham	9	1	0	3	5	8	1	2	2	3	4	-4	8
Bristol Rov	9	1	2	2	8	11	1	0	3	5	8	-6	8
Forest Green	9	1	0	4	4	10	1	2	1	4	8	-10	8
Morecambe	9	0	2	2	1	8	1	2	2	5	8	-10	7
Burton Alb	9	0	0	4	0	9	1	1	3	10	13	-12	4

Accrington S ..... (1) **1** **Cheltenham** ..... (0) **0**
McConville 1 1,996

Accrington Stanley: Jensen, Clark, Astley, Tharme, Rodgers (Sloane 59), Conneely, Whalley, Pritchard (Sangare 84), Coyle, McConville, Leigh (Hamilton 75). **Subs not used:** Nolan, Martin, Savin, Fernandes.
Booked: Astley 77, Pritchard 81, Jensen 89.
Cheltenham: Southwood, Long, Taylor, Freestone, Jackson (Norton 67), Sercombe, Perry, Ferry (Williams 67), Broom, N'Lundulu, Lloyd (May 57). **Subs not used:** Raglan, Chapman, MacDonald, Barkers. **Booked:** Jackson 53, Perry 81. **Referee:** Stephen Martin

Bolton ..... (0) **1** **Peterborough** ..... (0) **0**
Afolayan 86 17,016

Bolton: Trafford, Jones, Santos, Johnston, Bradley, Dempsey (Afolayan 70), Williams, Iredale (Sadlier 78), Thomason, Kachunga (Bodvarsson 70), Charles (Bakayoko 83). **Subs not used:** Aimson, Morley, Lee.
Booked: Iredale 35, Johnston 45, Sadlier 90, Williams 90.
Peterborough: Bergstrom, N Thompson, Knight, Edwards, Burrows, Fuchs (Kyprianou 88), Taylor (Marriott 88), B Thompson, Poku (Ward 62), Clarke-Harris, Jade-Jones (Mason-Clarke 61). **Subs not used:** Kent, Tomlinson, Blackmore. **Booked:** Fuchs 26, Knight 45, Kyprianou 90.
Referee: Carl Brook

Bristol Rovers ..... (1) **3** **Lincoln City** ..... (3) **6**
Collins 18, 65 House 7, 61
Loft 60 Diamond 14 (pen), 45, 56
Virtue 51

Bristol Rovers: Belshaw, Hoole, Whelan, Gordon, Anderson (Marquis 62), Evans, Finley, McCormick (Saunders 62), Clarke (Coutts 62), Collins, Loft (Jasper 77). **Subs not used:** Kilgour, Westbrooke, Jaakkola.
Booked: Evans 8, Finley 59.
Lincoln City: Rushworth, Eyoma, O'Connor, Poole, Roughan, Oakley-Boothe (Jackson 74), Virtue, Sorensen, Garrick (Vernam 46), House (Hopper 80), Diamond (Robson 88). **Subs not used:** Sanders, Davenport, Wright. **Referee:** Tom Nield

Cambridge U ..... (0) **0** **Barnsley** ..... (1) **3**
Cole 24
Cundy 76
6,138 Norwood 90

Cambridge Utd: Mitov, Williams, Okedina, Jones, Dunk, O'Neil (May 74), Digby, Tracey (Janneh 84), Knibbs (Lankester 84), Brophy (Ironside 73), Smith. **Subs not used:** Rossi, Okenabirhie, Mannion. **Booked:** Dunk 29, Smith 89.
Barnsley: Collins (Searle 59), Cundy, Andersen, Kitching, Williams, Kane, Wolfe, Edwards (Cadden 70), Thomas (Norwood 75), Aitchison (Benson 75), Cole.
Subs not used: Martin, McCarthy, Hondermarck.
Booked: Kitching 14, Cole 44, Thomas 70. **Sent-off:** Kitching 68. **Referee:** Declan Bourne

Derby ..... (0) **2** **Wycombe** ..... (1) **1**
Hourihane 72, 86 Mehmeti 15
Derby: Wildsmith, Chester, Davies, Cashin, Barkhuizen (Forsyth 88), Sibley, Bird (Mendez-Laing 56), Hourihane, Roberts (Collins 56), Knight, McGoldrick (Thompson 90). **Subs not used:** Stearman, Loach, Osula. **Booked:** Hourihane 66.
Wycombe: Stryjek, Grimmer, Mawson, Tafazolli, Obita, Wing (Horgan 78), Gape, McCarthy, Freeman (KaiKai 89), Mehmeti (Joseph 89), Vokes (Al-Hamadi 78).
Subs not used: Jacobson, Dickinson, Young. **Booked:** Tafazolli 14, Vokes 68.
Referee: Sam Barrott

Exeter ..... (0) **0** **Burton Albion** .. (0) **2**
Oshilaja 63
Kelllor-Dunn 69

Exeter: Blackman, Sweeney, Hartridge, Grounds (Kite 46), Key, Harper, Collins, Caprice (Sparkes 70), Jay (Nombe 62), J Brown, Stansfield (Smith 70). **Subs not used:** Chaukе, Cox, S Brown. **Booked:** Harper 68, Key 90. **Burton Albion:** Garratt, Hamer, Hughes, Brayford, Borthwick-Jackson, Gilligan (Butcher 60), Taylor, Oshilaja, Powell, Adeboyejo (Winnall 90), Kelllor-Dunn (Carayol 75). **Subs not used:** Onyango, Thorpe, Lakin, Sinisalo. **Booked:** Borthwick-Jackson 18, Hughes 33, Oshilaja 84, Butcher 87. **Referee:** Neil Hair

Fleetwood Tn ..... (1) **1** **Charlton** ..... (0) **1**
Morton 30 Leaburn 77
3,614

Fleetwood Town: Lynch, Rooney, Nsiala, Earl, Andrew, Warrington, Vela, Macadam (Johnston 74), Batty (Lane 81), Morton (Hayes 82), Muskwe (Garner 86). **Subs not used:** Stolarczyk, Devlin, Baker. **Booked:** Earl 20.
Charlton: Wollacott, Clare, Lavelle, O'Connell, Clayden (Egbo 46), Payne (Leaburn 74), Dobson, Fraser (Morgan 80), Rak-Sakyi, Stockley, Blackett-Taylor (Jaiyesimi 80). **Subs not used:** Thomas, McGrandles, MacGillivray. **Booked:** Morgan 87.
Referee: Simon Mather

Forest Green ..... (1) **1** **Morecambe** ..... (1) **2**
Wickham 30 Phillips 44
2,601 Rawson 90

Forest Green: McGee, Casey, Moore-Taylor, Margues, O'Keeffe, Hendry (Stevenson 80), Davis (Little 62), Bernard, Pearl-Harris (Brown 74), Fiabema, Wickham. **Subs not used:** Jones, McAllister, Thomas, Bunker. **Booked:** O'Keeffe 27, Wickham 63.
Morecambe: Ripley, Rawson, Bedeau, Delaney, Love, Weir, Shaw (Fane 83), Taylor (Gnahoua 66), Gibson (Cooney 39), Stockton (Connolly 83), Phillips. **Subs not used:** Smith, Obika, O'Connor. **Booked:** Cooney 52. **Referee:** Ollie Yates

Oxford Utd ..... (0) **1** **MK Dons** ..... (1) **2**
Mousinho 89 Smith 44
8,141 Grigg 84 (pen)

Oxford Utd: Eastwood, Long, Mousinho, Findlay (Goodman 64), Henry, Brannagan, Browne, McGuane, Brown, Bodin (Bate 64), Joseph (O'Donkor 78). **Subs not used:** Gorrin, McGinty , Anderson, Seddon.
Milton Keynes Dons: Cumming, Tucker, O'Hora, Lewington, Oyegoke, Devoy, McEachran (Johnson 67), Harvie, Smith, Dennis (Kayode 46), Grant (Grigg 78). **Subs not used:** Burns, Lawrence, Ravizzoli, Jules.
Booked: McEachran 69, Johnson 74, Virtue, Sorensen, Garrick (Vernam 46), House (Hopper 80), Diamond (Robson 88). **Sent-off:** Sanders, Davenport, Wright. **Referee:** Tom Nield

Port Vale ..... (1) **2** **Shrewsbury** ..... (1) **1**
Harrison 9, 90 Saydee 19
7,403

Port Vale: Stevens, Cass, Smith, Jones, Massey (Worrall 81), Garrity, Ojo, Benning, Harrison (Conlon 90), Butterworth (Politic 72), Wilson (Odubeko 72). **Subs not used:** McCarron, Stone, Forrester. **Booked:** Butterworth 47, Jones 87.
Shrewsbury: Marosi, Pennington, Dunkley, Flanagan, Pyke, Leahy, Moore, Nurse, Bayliss (Shipley 68), Winchester (Bowman 60), Saydee (Street 76). **Subs not used:** Burgoyne, Bennett, Bloxham, Caton.
Booked: Flanagan 50, Street 88, Shipley 90.
Referee: Ben Speedie

Portsmouth ..... (1) **2** **Plymouth** ..... (0) **2**
Koroma 41 Raggett 74 (og)
Hackett-Fairchild 90 Ennis 79
19,009

Portsmouth: Griffiths, Ogilvie, Morrison, Raggett, Robertson, Dale (Hackett-Fairchild 81), Pack, Lowery (Morrell 40), Koroma (Curtis 70), Scarlett (Pigott 70), Bishop. **Subs not used:** Swanson, Oluwayemi, Mingi.
Booked: Pack 43, Bishop 90, Hackett-Fairchild 90, Morrison 90. **Plymouth:** Cooper, Lonwijk, Scarr, Gillesphey (Galloway 70), Edwards (Cosgrove 66), Houghton (Randell 66), Butcher, Mumba, Azaz, Whittaker, Hardie (Ennis 56). **Subs not used:** Wilson, Burton, Davies. **Booked:** Galloway 89, Azaz 90. **Sent-off:** Galloway 90. **Referee:** James Bell

Sheff Wed ..... (0) **2** **Ipswich** ..... (1) **2**
Byers 75 Jackson 4
Smith 89 Iorfa 71 (og)
26,281

Sheff Wed: Stockdale, Iorfa (Mighten 71), Dielewe, James, Palmer, Byers, Bannan, Johnson, Dele-Bashiru (Gregory 57), Windass, Smith. **Subs not used:** Vaulks, Wilks, Paterson, Bakinson, Dawson. **Booked:** Bannan 24, James 79. **Ipswich:** Walton, Donacien, Woolfenden, Edmundson, Burns, Evans, Morsy, Davis (Leigh 55), Chaplin (Harness 68), John-Jules (Ladapo 69), Jackson (Keogh 81). **Sent-off:** Bell, Ahadme, Hladky.
Booked: Woolfenden 43, Davis 52, Leigh 62, Burns 74, Morsy 76, Harness 82. **Referee:** Peter Wright

Sky Bet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Leyton O	9	5	0	0	10	2	3	1	0	6	2	12	25
Barrow	9	4	0	0	8	3	3	0	2	7	6	6	21
Northamptn	9	4	0	1	11	5	2	2	0	8	5	9	20
Stevenage	9	4	0	0	6	2	2	1	2	5	7	2	19
Bradford	9	3	2	0	7	1	2	2	0	2	7	6	17
Salford City	9	3	1	1	8	3	2	1	1	5	4	6	17
Mansfield	9	3	1	0	8	3	2	0	3	6	6	5	16
Grimsby	8	0	3	0	2	2	4	0	1	6	3	3	15
Crewe	9	3	1	1	8	4	1	2	1	3	5	2	15
Sutton Utd	9	4	1	0	8	3	0	1	3	3	6	2	14
Swindon	9	2	2	0	7	3	1	3	1	3	5	2	14
Doncaster	9	3	0	2	7	7	1	2	1	3	4	-1	14
Carlisle	8	3	2	0	8	5	0	2	1	2	3	2	13
Tranmere	9	2	0	2	7	4	1	1	3	2	5	0	10
Walsall	9	1	2	1	7	4	1	1	3	3	5	1

Axed Son's 13-minute hat-trick lifts Spurs

By Sam Wallace *at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium*

Tottenham		6
Kane 8, Dier 21, Bentancur 47, Son 73, 84, 86		
Leicester City		2
Tielemans 6 pen, Maddison 41		

Dropped in the morning, hat-trick in the evening: and these were no ordinary first goals of the season for Son Heung-min. Rather they were a demonstration of the rare ability of one of the most technically accomplished players of his generation to make you wonder which of his is supposed to be the stronger foot.

The first of the substitute's hat-trick was a stunning right-foot knuckleball, his second was a left-foot curler and by then it scarcely mattered that the third was a scuffed right-foot finish that needed a Var referral to pass it.

The season has finally started for Tottenham Hotspur's mercurial son, dropped for this game after a run of bad form that saw him substituted in the Champions League in Lisbon this week. Within 13 minutes, all the time he needed to hit three goals, he was back in the old groove.

Not a single goal to his name before this night against the Premier League's bottom club, and only one assist. Son came on to put an impressive finish to what was at times a ragged Spurs performance. They were leading when he replaced Richarlison just before the hour but only just. It turned into another big defeat for Brendan Rodgers, his side still without a win, although there were signs in this performance that there might be a way back for them.

Leicester controlled much of the game until the final stages – they simply could not take as many of the chances that Spurs gobbled up. A Youri Tielemans penalty had given them the lead and then the game turned into something wild – goals for Harry Kane and Eric Dier, an equaliser from James Maddison. When Son came on Rodrigo Bentancur had given Spurs the lead but they were not out of sight. This striker of rare talent changed that with his three goals.

There was a burst of boos at half-time for Antonio Conte's players, who had been gradually slipping in the build-up to the break and were in danger of losing grip altogether in the time added on at the end of the half. Then it required a save by Hugo Lloris from Maddison cutting in unmarked to shoot from his perch on the right side of a five-man midfield.

When Kane equalised after eight minutes it felt like Spurs were ready to reassert themselves in the game. Tielemans had taken two attempts to beat Lloris from the penalty spot two minutes earlier – a retake ordered by referee Simon Hooper after the goalkeeper advanced off his line to save the first.

Perhaps the signs were there for Spurs in the build-up and the conceding of that penalty, when Ivan Perisic attempted two challenges that combined might have seen him sent off. No explanation for Davinson Sanchez's peculiar challenge on James Justin on the very edge of the area for the penalty.

What followed were goals for Spurs from first Kane, a header at the back post from Dejan Kulusevski's cross, and then Eric Dier. Both of them nicely done, especially Dier's header from a corner that saw the centre-half reverse smartly from the goal-line to the near post to glance a header past Danny Ward. Another set-piece goal conceded by Leicester.

They do have a new coach for that aspect of the game and the Dane Lars Knudsen was on the bench with Rodgers for the first time. As for Kane, he always scores against Leicester. Remarkably this was his 18th goal in 15 games against the team he once played for on loan.

Then, with the game in their grasp, Conte's players handed it back to Leicester. Spurs had a goal disallowed for what referee Hooper judged as a heavy challenge on Ward from Sanchez before the ball went in off Wilfred Ndidi. It was debatable, but a cautious referee would no doubt give it and at his stage of career Hooper needs to be cautious.

The equaliser came when Thomas Castagne won his battle with Ryan Sessegnon on the right and his cross was met expertly by Maddison, who angled his volley into Lloris's right corner.

Leicester controlled the possession and they also had the best of the attacking. Patson Daka struck a limp shot on 29 minutes from Wout Faes's ball at the second attempt and before the hour Lloris would be obliged to make one of the game's best saves from the best striker. Later Daka would be replaced by Jamie Vardy but by then the game was slipping away from Rodgers's players once again.

They had malfunctioned badly for the third Spurs goal just after half-time when Ndidi took the ball with his back to the home goal in his own half and never anticipated the arrival of Bentancur at his shoulder. The ball was spirited away and the midfielder drove forward with purpose, his shot dispatched perfectly inside Ward's left post. In the aftermath there seemed to be some of that squabbling that has affected Leicester before this season – Ndidi and Tielemans it seemed this time.

Yet if that was the cue to fall away, Leicester stayed in the match.

Rodgers seemed not to rate many of his options off the bench while Conte changed again and again, his fourth substitution with 20 minutes still left to play. That was Yves Bissouma to strengthen the midfield at the expense of an attacker, Kulusevski. He had brought Son on before then – just before the hour – and the first goal he conjured on 73 minutes changed the mood.

Bentancur won the ball for the striker and, as Son ran at goal, he just pushed Jonny Evans further and further into retreat. Faes never made up the ground before Son switched to his favoured right and from outside the area struck a shot with some power and little deception in the swerve. A magnificent goal.

His second was breath-taking for the variation, a left foot swept in from the right. The stadium could feel it coming and the hat-trick arrived when Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg slotted a pass into the left channel and Son put it under Ward. Var overruled the on-field offside and the game had its hero.







Three and easy: Son Heung-min fires home his opener (above) to put Tottenham 4-2 up against Leicester, adding his second 11 minutes later to make it 5-2 (below left) and soon after celebrates completing his hat-trick (below right) to seal the 6-2 rout

Tottenham Hotspur (3-4-3) Lloris 7; Lenglet 6, Dier 7, Sanchez 5 (Romero 59); Perisic 5 (Royal 55), Bentancur 7, Hojbjerg 7, Sessegnon 7; Kulusevski 6 (Bissouma 70), Kane 6, Richarlison 5 (Son 59). **Subs** Forster (g), Doherty, Skipp, Gil, Tanganga. **Booked** Perisic.
Leicester City (4-1-4-1) Ward 5; Castagne 6, Evans 6, Faes 7, Justin 6; Ndidi 6 (Soumare 85); Maddison 6, Tielemans 6, Dewsbury-Hall 6 (Iheanacho 74), Barnes 6; Daka 6 (Vardy 74). **Subs** Iversen (g), Albrighton, Perez, Amartey, Praet, Thomas. **Booked** Ndidi, Daka.
Referee Simon Hooper (Wiltshire). **Att** 61,450.

Ndiaye and McBurnie help Blades pull clear at the top

Championship

Sheffield United maintained their momentum at the top of the Championship with a 2-0 win at Preston.

The hosts missed several chances to pull ahead in the first half before Iliman Ndiaye scored against the run of play, sending a strike past Freddie Woodman into the bottom corner just shy of the 40-minute mark.

Ryan Lowe's side enjoyed more possession but only the visitors could find the finishing touch.

Sander Berge dispossessed Andrew Hughes and drove into the area to feed Oli McBurnie, who doubled his side's advantage after 75 minutes.

Second-placed **Norwich** lost ground after a 1-1 home draw with **West Brom**, who opened proceedings through Dara O'Shea in the ninth minute.

Sam Byram was credited with the 68th-minute equaliser after Teemu Pukki's effort deflected in off him.

Reading kept pace with the leaders after a 1-0 win over **Wigan** lifted them into third place.

The sides were goalless late into the contest before Tom Ince scored a stunning free-kick.

Burnley edged out a close contest with **Bristol City** to walk away 2-1 winners at Turf Moor and move into fourth place.



Clinical: Oli McBurnie wrapped up the points for Sheffield United, who had been under the cosh against Preston

Manuel Benson opened the scoring after four minutes before Nahki Wells hit the equaliser in the 27th. But Jay Rodriguez made sure of three points and Burnley's fourth win of the season.

Benik Afobe's second-half strike earned **Millwall** a 2-1 victory over **Blackpool** at the Den.

Second-half goals from Carlton Morris and Reece Burke helped **Luton** finally register a first home win of the season at the seventh attempt when beating **Blackburn** 2-0.

Swansea secured a 3-0 win over **Hull** in the early kick-off with all three goals coming in the second half.

Jordan Rhodes's eighth-minute strike was enough to hand **Huddersfield** a 1-0 victory over **Cardiff**, while **QPR** played out a goalless draw against **Stoke**.

Coventry's trip to **Birmingham** also ended 0-0, but the visitors finished with 10 men after Gustavo Hamer was sent off for the second time this season a minute from time.

Sunderland twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with **Watford**.

Keinan Davis and a Luke O'Nien own goal twice gave the hosts the advantage, but Aji Alese and an 87th-minute equaliser from Jewison Bennette earned Sunderland a point.

Howe admits to 'a difficult watch' after Newcastle are held again

By Luke Edwards *at St James' Park*

Newcastle	1-1	**Bournemouth**
Isak 67 pen		Billing 62

He wore it to show his respect during the pre-match tributes to Queen Elizabeth II, but Eddie Howe did not look comfortable in a suit on a match day and neither did his Newcastle United side.

Howe, who had fidgeted and fiddled with his black sleeves and tie, immediately changed back into his usual tracksuit after the tributes were over, but this was not the Newcastle we have been used to seeing. It was a prickly, irritating sort of afternoon as Bournemouth nullified their hosts and hurt them on the counter-attack.

There were a few boos after the final whistle, an audible expression of the frustration that had been gradually building. Newcastle were not awful, but they were poor. It was not a disastrous result, but it was disappointing.

It rather sums up their campaign. They head into the international break with just one defeat, but also just one win, from their opening seven games.

"There have been a lot of draws and it does feel like a very frustrating end to the game," said Howe. "That was a performance below the levels we have set, for the first time this season our standards dipped. We were off in every aspect of our play. We scored an equaliser, everything was set up for us to go on and win the game and our decision-making and patience was off. The last 20 minutes were a difficult watch."

Worryingly, Newcastle have spent more than £200 million on new players since the start of January, but still look overly reliant on Allan Saint-Maximin and Callum Wilson to offer a really dangerous attacking threat. Both missed this game because of injury and with the club's new £60 million striker, Alexander Isak, struggling badly, the fact the hosts dominated possession was irrelevant as they did not hurt their opponents with it. Isak did score a confident-looking penalty after a Var intervention had spotted a handball from Jefferson Lerma, deflecting Kieran Trippier's cross, but that was the only truly impressive thing he did.

Credit where it is due. Bournemouth were really good, implementing an effective game plan which absorbed Newcastle's attacks and they always looked dangerous on the break. Their goal was a really well executed move. After a period of sustained pressure at the start of the second half, a magnificent run from Marcus Tavernier eventually led to Sam Billing prodding home a cross from Jordan Zemura. Bournemouth created a really good chance in the first half too, when Zemura's cross was headed wide by Tavernier.

Newcastle, though, also hit the woodwork twice before the break, through Trippier and Joelinton, while visiting goalkeeper Neto also did well to tip a Ryan Fraser effort over.

Nobody, though, could argue that the visitors did not deserve their point and Bournemouth have now taken five from their past three games after the 9-0 thrashing against Liverpool. Caretaker head coach Gary O'Neil once again swerved questions about whether he wants the job full time, but he is definitely getting more out of the players than his predecessor Scott Parker. "I'm enjoying every day, I've been working towards this moment for a long time now," said O'Neil. "I'm really pleased with the performance today and the attitude of the players."



Lifeline: Alexander Isak celebrates after equalising for Newcastle with a penalty

Newcastle United (4-3-3) Pope 5; Trippier 6, Schar 4, Burn 7, Targett 5; Joelinton 6, Bruno 7 (Longstaff 72), Willock 5; Fraser 4 (Murphy 71), Isak 6, Almiron 6 (Wood 89). **Subs** Karius (g), Botman, Lascelles, Ritchie, Lewis, Manquillo. **Booked** Joelinton, Burn.
Bournemouth (4-2-3-1) Neto 7; Smith 7, Mepham 7, Senesi 7, Zemura 7; Cook 6, Lerma 7; Christie 8 (Stacey 87), Billing 8 (Stephens 90+3), Tavernier 8 (Anthony 80); Solanke 5 (Moore 90+3). **Subs** Travers (g), Marcondes, Lowe, Stanislas, Dembele. **Booked** Christie, Tavernier.
Referee Craig Pawson (South Yorkshire). **Att** 52,238.

Sam Wallace



Cooper stares at exit in fantasy game where owner is never wrong

Steve Cooper, the Nottingham Forest manager whose first anniversary at the club dawns on Wednesday, finds himself involved in a second successive relegation battle – the only quirk of this tale being that the first of the two ended in promotion.

Will he make it to Wednesday? Hard to escape the feeling that many a modern manager is appointed to preside over a moment, a situation, perhaps a season or two before he is framed as the wrong man for the wrong time. Few managers felt like a better fit for their club than Cooper last season at Championship relegation-imperilled Forest. His was a gentle act of reassurance, a calm explainer of simple truths in the fog of recrimination that can engulf a famous club in long-term crisis. The change was at first gradual as to be barely perceptible to a fanbase numbed by years of mediocrity and worse – and then it was sudden. A dizzying last-minute surge through the closing gates of the Premier League.

Only in May in the aftermath of the play-off win at Wembley, when Cooper briefly sat on his seat and put his face in his hands, did he ever look like a man whom events had taken by surprise, and then he was immediately back in the room. As since last September: sensible, measured, forever talking about what lay ahead while letting everyone else enjoy the moment. Yet he will approach international week wondering if he might still have a job on the other side.

With good reason: the billionaire Evangelos Marinakis, who owns Forest, has sacked five managers in less than five years, and plenty more at Olympiacos, his perennial Greek champions. Only the most deluded of observers might convince themselves that Cooper chose all 22 of Forest's signings this summer, but that scarcely matters these days. Ownership means you never have to be wrong and sacking managers has never been more affordable to Premier League owners such as Marinakis.

The notion that managers have specialisms for certain periods in the life of a club assists in the process of justification. Thomas Tuchel was judged the right man for post-Lampard Chelsea and sanction-fraught Chelsea, but the wrong man for Todd Boehly Chelsea. Just as Frank Lampard was judged the right man for embargo Chelsea and not post-embargo Chelsea. Perhaps Brendan Rodgers will be the right man for Champions League-challenging Leicester and the wrong man for FFP-hobbled Leicester.

One can see how this thinking might lead Cooper to the sack. A conviction within the ownership that he was the right man for loanee-army Championship Forest and the wrong man for whatever squad has been built by so many hands this summer. A solid bet as a whisperer of disillusioned second-tier triers when Forest were stuffed in the Championship. Just not the man to corral the oft-baffling parade of Bundesliga maybes and big club offcuts assembled for him this summer.

It is a strange world, and the strangest part of all is that no one at Forest would have got to play fantasy transfers this summer if it was not for Cooper. It was him and him alone who turned a failing Championship club – indeed a club exhausting the ways to fail in the Championship – into a Premier League club. Just as it was Tuchel who gave Boehly and the rest of the private equity bros the chance to solemnly sack him after a Champions League defeat by defying the odds last season to squeak Chelsea into the Champions League places.

Without Tuchel, there is no Champions League and so no humiliation in Zagreb. Without Cooper, there is no end to the 23-year wait for Premier League football at the City Ground. No dramatic Jesse Lingard social media reveal; no trips to Old Trafford and Anfield. Funny old game.

The crows are circling a few now and if the sack does come then all are well established enough that a job will come at the expense of another dethroned peer. This is a lucrative profession, albeit one that seems destined to be lived in a kind of permanent state of impermanence.

Although, as with Graham Potter at Chelsea, all these appointments have to begin with bold declarations of a long-term vision and a programme of change unaffected by short-term setbacks. If everyone was honest about how fragile the whole thing was, none of it would make much sense.

Last week, Cooper was obliged to dismiss the suggestion that he might depart for the seat Potter vacated at Brighton – the same week that he seemed to be playing for his current job in what turned into a damaging Friday-night defeat by Fulham. There is something fundamentally imbalanced about that, which should sound an alarm for certain owners who can only ever reach the single conclusion that the manager is the problem. Why is it everyone else sees the issue so differently from them?



On the line: Steve Cooper's job at Forest is at risk

Not every club are playing this strange game. Arsenal deserve as much credit as any for persevering with Mikel Arteta, and who knows where their young manager will take them. Southampton and Ralph Hasenhuttl seem to have been together for so long no one can be quite sure whether it is love or co-dependency.

Yet one suspects that a club's behaviour affects the scope of the appointments they can make in the future. The best managers can afford to choose. Ange Postecoglou at Celtic, for instance, is destined to come to the Premier League at some point, the only question being where and when. He checks all the big-club boxes: positive, progressive football; innovative recruitment; assured under heavy media scrutiny. He would have been a major contender for Brighton but is biding his time in Glasgow and will doubtless have many options when the moment is right.

The choice of the kind of club seems startling in its clarity these days. One where there is a plan, which the manager is central to, or the alternative where, whatever the plan, the manager always ends up being the problem.

SPORT

The Sunday Telegraph

CITY HIT JACKPOT
Grealish makes mark in just 55 seconds to send champions top
P.6



COMEBACK KID
Billy Vunipola targets England recall after Saracens star turn
P.4

SIR IAN MCGEECHAN
Please, World Rugby, don't ignore our warnings over safety any longer
P.4





Tottenham | 6 — 2 | Leicester

Son shines

Spurs striker bags 13-minute hat-trick to pile misery on Rodgers P.7

Son Heung-min celebrates the first of the three goals he scored after coming on as a second-half substitute as Tottenham Hotspur increased the pressure on under-fire Leicester City manager Brendan Rodgers

ACTION IMAGES

England sweat over Phillips' shoulder injury for World Cup

By Mike McGrath *at Molineux*

Kalvin Phillips will pull out of the England squad with a shoulder injury ahead of the international break and could require surgery as he sweats on his fitness for the World Cup.

The Manchester City midfielder was ruled out of his team's 3-0 victory over Wolves at Molineux yesterday after the recurrence of the problem which has restricted him to only three substitute appearances, for a combined 13 minutes, since his £42 million move from Leeds United over the summer.

He suffered shoulder problems earlier in his career and aggravated the injury in a recent friendly against Barcelona, before recovering to play in the final minutes of City's Champions League win over Borussia Dortmund in midweek.

City will be worried that he might need surgery, as will England manager Gareth Southgate with the World Cup just two months away. England's final two games before the tournament come in the Nations League, starting with an away game in Italy on Friday, and then a Wembley visit from Germany a week tomorrow.



Unavailable: Midfielder Kalvin Phillips will pull out of the latest England squad following a recurrence of his shoulder problem

Phillips won England's player-of-the-year award in 2020-21 and his midfield partnership with Declan Rice is expected to be Southgate's first choice in Qatar. He established himself as a key player during the Euros last year and was a mainstay of the starting line-up as England reached the final.

He suffered a hamstring injury that ruled him out of a significant part of last season, but was back for the final part of Leeds' survival in the Premier League. Phillips was signed by City to compete for a place in central midfield with Rodri.

Jack Grealish, his team-mate for City and England, starred against Wolves and scored the opening goal in the first minute before he was fouled by Nathan Collins, which led to a red card for the defender.

"Jack scored a goal and it was a good performance," Pep Guardiola said. "Every time he has the ball, it's one against one against the full-back all the time. OK, he didn't score or assist in other games but it's a question of time. I am happy for him, for the victory, for his incredible personality to play. That's why I am happy for the goal he scored."

BBC faces backlash for Pakistan tour snub

Cricket By Nick Hoult *in Karachi* and Ben Rumsby

Historic England trip to be covered from Salford

Corporation's cost-saving move branded a 'scandal'

The BBC was last night facing furious criticism after deciding not to send a commentary team to cover England's first tour to Pakistan for 17 years. It is understood a combination of cost savings and security protocols are behind the decision.

Test Match Special, cricket's flagship radio show, will instead call the action off television images from a studio in Salford.

Julian Knight MP, chairman of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee, told *Telegraph Sport*: "It's a scandal that the first series in Pakistan for nearly a generation is not going to be covered properly. The BBC's top brass always cite cost-cutting, but while they waste huge sums on the likes of Gary Lineker and groan under the weight of middle managers, they cannot be taken seriously in any way."

It comes as another blow to traditional listeners after the BBC announced the closure of Radio 4 Long Wave this summer, meaning *TMS* will in future only be available through digital platforms despite millions being unable to access them.

Henry Blofeld, a *TMS* commentator for 45 years until his retirement in 2017, lamented the BBC's failure to send to Pakistan as "jolly sad". He added: "Is it a question of BBC cuts? Is it a question of safety? Is it a question of difficulty in getting the co-operation of the broadcasting authorities there? We are living in an age when everything is much tighter. It's jolly sad but it's a question of housekeeping, isn't it?"

The BBC is hopeful of sending its usual commentary team to cover the Test series in Pakistan in December. It also has rights to the ICC Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

The BBC has lost out on overseas rights in recent years to Talksport, to instead concentrate on ICC events and the Ashes in Australia. Talksport had rights to England's tour to West Indies in March and also did not send a full commentary team, instead relying on calling the action from home with input from the ground. It is the first time the BBC has not sent a commentary team on an England tour apart from during the pandemic, when England toured India and Sri Lanka under Covid protocols.

Sky will be taking the international television feed with its staff commentator Mark Butcher providing England analysis from Pakistan. David Gower will cover the series as one of the commentators for the host broadcaster, meaning he will be back on Sky for the first time since his contract was not renewed in 2019. *Telegraph Sport* has approached the BBC for comment.

Meanwhile, Matthew Mott, head coach of the England one-day team, has insisted that Ben Stokes and Alex Hales do not have to be "best mates" to help England win next month's World Cup. The pair fell out in the aftermath of the street fight in Bristol that both were involved in but led to Stokes facing an affray charge in Crown Court, of which he was later cleared.

Hales is back in the England frame for the first time since 2019 and Stokes, as a senior player, was consulted on whether he was happy to play with him again. Stokes gave a lukewarm response last week but Mott believes he can handle any rift between the pair, who will be crucial players at the World Cup in Australia.

Mott said he consulted Trevor Bayliss, his predecessor, before recalling Hales, who will make his first England appearance for three years in Karachi on Tuesday. "They might not be best mates and that's OK, you work with colleagues all the time who aren't your best mate but you can work with them if you've got a common goal," Mott added.

Oval beats Lord's to host World Test final

Exclusive By Tim Wigmore

Lord's has lost out to the Oval over staging the 2023 World Test Championship final due to contractual complications.

The match, to be played in early June, immediately before the five-match Ashes series, had long been expected to be held at the "Home of Cricket". But contractual complications have allowed the Oval to swoop in and the venue is expected to be confirmed this week.

The International Cricket Council requires complete control over the advertising boards and marketing for events that it runs, while Lord's commercial arrangements are based on advertisers getting exposure in two Tests a year.

The favourites to reach the final are Australia, who are top of the 2021-23 edition of the World Test Championship. Were they to qualify, they would face a gruelling schedule of six Test matches in seven weeks in England.

South Africa, India and Pakistan are also realistic contenders to qualify for the final. England's terrible run until this summer means that they have no chance of qualifying regardless of how they fare during their three-match Test series in Pakistan in December.

Staging the second edition of the championship final – the first was at the Ageas Bowl in 2021, when New Zealand defeated India – and the first to be played without restrictions on crowd sizes because of Covid, will be a major coup for the Oval.

The Test will include a reserve day in case of play being lost, to maximise the chances of a positive result.

The Oval staging the final would have a knock-on effect on England's Test against Ireland, which will be played at the start of June. A series of other grounds, notably the Ageas Bowl, had hoped to stage that, but it is now likely to be played at Lord's, which – like the Oval – will also host an Ashes Test. Unlike with an ICC event such as the World Test Championship final, Lord's would be free to abide by its normal marketing arrangements.

The Test against Ireland will be the start of a bumper sequence of seven Tests over two months in England next summer, with the sequence completed before the Hundred begins in August.

* One-Day Cup final: Page 5

Anger as Dundee United fans hijack silence

Football By Jeremy Wilson **CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER**

A section of Dundee United supporters sparked outrage at Ibrox yesterday by interrupting a minute's silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

After playing the national anthem in defiance of Uefa before their Champions League tie on Wednesday, Rangers paid further tributes ahead of their Scottish Premiership match but the silence ended with booing and multiple reports that fans in the away section had sung "Lizzie's in a box".

This prompted fury from Rangers supporters and even a "shut-up" gesture from Rangers striker Antonio Colak, who placed a finger to his lips in front of the Dundee United fans following the first of his two goals in a 2-1 win.

"It is all about respect," Colak said. "It was my emotions because the whole crowd, 50,000 in the stadium, had this respect but some people didn't have that."

A video was circulated online last week showing Shamrock Rovers supporters singing the same song, prompting a statement of condemnation from the club.



Gesture: Antonio Colak puts his fingers to his lips in front of the away support after scoring the first of Rangers' two goals

Dundee United later released a statement that noted the "actions of a small section of the crowd who chose to not respect the minute's silence", but stopped short of an apology.

The two-line statement added that the club had advised the fans of the pre-match arrangements "with the expectation that the minute silence would be observed".

It was Rangers' first domestic home match since the Queen's death. They had also honoured the late monarch with a full-page picture on the front of the match-day programme.

Old firm rivals Celtic – some of whose supporters had displayed banners that read "F--- The Crown" and "Sorry for your loss Michael Fagan", in reference to the 1982 royal intruder, during their 1-1 draw against Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday – play at St Mirren today.

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The Sunday Telegraph



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The perfect diet for every age

From baby to boomer and beyond, each life stage requires specific nutrients. Boudicca Fox-Leonard speaks to the experts about what we should be eating in each decade

No day goes by without us thinking about food. For most of us, taste will usually be the dominant factor in what we decide to eat, with ease, cost and, of course, nutrition, all playing a part in that decision.

But are you really eating the right food for you?

Which nutrients your body needs will depend on your sex and time of life. Whether we're a growing child, a woman trying to conceive or an adult trying to hold back decline, our bodies change throughout our lives. As such, they need different foods at crucial moments to ensure the best for our bones, brains, guts and hearts. Understanding the specific nutritional demands during the body's life cycle should influence our food choices today. In short, what should be on our plates at each age?

Over the course of a lifetime, it has been estimated that each of us will consume roughly 35 tons of food. If you were to break that down, how different might the layers of your lifetime food mountain look? Those spaghetti hoops of your fussy childhood squashed beneath your youthful curry years and now topped off by a steak and red wine adulthood.

More importantly, what effect does each layer have on our health?

There are a few universal rules that will always serve us well, says dietitian Priya Tew. "Overall, throughout our lives we need to focus on that balanced plate. We need protein, wholegrains, fruit and vegetables. We need healthy fats and dairy (or dairy alternatives). What changes within that list are the proportions as we age," she says.

There are times in our life when oily fish, fermented and folate foods should jostle for a starring role in our evening meal.

And what harm might befall our bodies if we do not give them the right nutrition?

A recent study published in the journal *BMC Medicine* found that women who are vegetarian are more likely to experience hip fractures in later life than those who frequently eat meat. Researchers suspect some vegetarians may not get sufficient nutrients for good bone and muscle health, leaving them prone to falls and fractures.

Meanwhile, a new report by the Health and Food Supplements Information Service revealed a third of women in the UK have been told they have a nutrient deficiency. On the whole, women tend to have more nutritional deficiencies than men, due to hormone fluctuations and diet choices.

Fortunately, it's never too late to start eating more healthily. As dietitian Dr Carrie Ruxton, co-author of the report, says: "While we know that nutrition, even before we are conceived, can affect our health and disease susceptibility, it is always possible to make positive changes whatever stage of life you're at."

Continued on Page 2

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Cover story

THE SEVEN SEASONS OF LIFE

Perfect plates for every age group

Key nutrients
Vitamin A
Vitamin C
Vitamin D
Omega-3

Ideal meal
For tinies – soft scrambled egg is reassuring and easy to chew, with some veggies



Early years
0-6

If parents of young children are wondering what this nutrient layer should look like, then it's really as simple as vitamins A, C, D – and your omega-3s. These are the key nutrients for healthy development in young bodies.

Vitamin A plays an important role for eyesight, skin, cell production, the immune system and protection from infections. You will find it in dairy products, fortified-fat spreads, carrots, sweet potatoes, swede and mangoes and dark-green vegetables, such as spinach, cabbage and broccoli.

Vitamin C is needed for general health and the immune system. You can find it in oranges, kiwi fruit, strawberries, broccoli, tomatoes and peppers.

Vitamin D is needed to build strong bones. The main source is sunlight, but it is available in small amounts from fatty fish (such as salmon and tuna), liver, eggs and fish oils. The above are also sources of omega-3.

The brain grows at its greatest rate from birth up until about two years old, though development continues throughout childhood and adolescence. More than 60 per cent of the brain is made up of fat, and the omega-3 fatty acid DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) makes up about 10-15 per cent of this. DHA is necessary for the development of the sensory, perceptual, cognitive and motor-neural (nerve) systems during the brain growth spurt. The DHA-rich parts of the brain are thought to be responsible for activities such as planning, problem solving and focused attention.

Dr Carrie Ruxton recommends adding a fish-oil supplement if your child won't eat oily fish.

Bear in mind that small tummies get full quite quickly. "So children might want to eat slightly more often than you will as an adult," says dietitian Priya Tew.

Key nutrients
Vitamin A
Vitamin D
Zinc
Omega-3

Ideal meal
Salmon goujons with corn on the cob



Pre-puberty
7-11

These are the lunchbox years. Introducing new foods can be fun, but parents of fussy eaters will worry about the impact on their child's nutrition.

While long-term fussiness is a concern, Tew says not to worry too much in the short-term. "Just carry on offering, encouraging and being a role model. Most do come out the other side."

A good rule of thumb is to offer something you know they like ("Beige is a safe colour, that's why pasta always goes down so well," says Tew) alongside something unfamiliar, so there's always something they know and like.

It's also a time for opening up the young and adventurous to the wealth of food the world offers by gently encouraging them to try new and exciting ingredients. Tew explains how a trip to the seaside

'Beige is a safe colour: that's why pasta always goes down so well'

and conversations about what lives beneath the waves, could be a jumping off point for going home (or to the nearest seafood shack) and trying squid, or cockles and whelks.

Vitamins A, D and the omega-3s remain key, says Dr Paul Stillman, of the Health & Food Supplements Information Service: "Children of this age have growing energy needs and should be encouraged to run about a lot, but they should only eat sugary and fatty foods sparingly."

Zinc is also needed to help synthesise protein, a crucial nutrient for normal growth. It can be found in seafood, meat and legumes.

Good luck getting them to try oysters!

Key nutrients
B vitamins
Calcium
Iron

Ideal meal
Fajitas – build your own, choosing from chicken, peppers, spinach, beans, cheese and yoghurt



The growing years
12-19



The teenage years can be tumultuous, and not least for our diet and development.

With the best of intentions, a vegetarian or plant-based diet may be appealing. However, restrictions can pose a challenge at a time when young bodies are going through lots of changes: skeletal growth spurts need calcium, and the onset of the menstrual cycle increases iron needs. "Almost half of girls and young women aged 11 to 18 suffer from low intakes of iron," says Tew.

Meanwhile, skipped breakfasts can result in inadequate intake of B vitamins, needed to help their bodies convert the food they eat into energy. B12 and folate are required for the development of healthy red blood cells. While B1 helps promote the growth and strengthening of children's nerves and muscles.

When hunger does strike, the temptation is to fill up on sugar and junk foods offering no nourishment. Tew recommends encouraging adolescents to have three meals a day and focus on sensible snacks. "Make energy balls with them for easy, portable snacks. Give them a little more freedom to choose what to put on the shopping list, so they have foods they like at home."

Mental health is a key concern for adolescents, says psychologist Kimberley Wilson, author of *How to Build a Healthy Brain*. "A few things come together to make this life stage important: synaptic pruning (the brain starts to cut back any underused connections to help make it more efficient and communication more ordered); increased hormone secretion (puberty); and dietary changes (about this time, children take more control over their eating and are more likely to consume sugar-sweetened beverages and foods high in fat, salt and sugar, and low in key nutrients).

"Coincidentally, this is the period when most mental health conditions start to emerge."

Studies have also shown that higher consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and energy drinks can be linked with poorer cognitive performance.

"In one study, consuming only an energy drink for breakfast was associated with poorer mental wellbeing compared with children who had eaten a conventional breakfast, such as toast, eggs or porridge. In fact, children consuming energy drinks felt worse than those who had no breakfast at all," says Wilson.

What teens should really be loading up on at this time is DHA, which is associated with better synaptic structure, reduced risk of psychosis and improved impulse control. You can find this in fatty fish (such as salmon and tuna), liver, eggs and fish oils.

At family meals, Tew highlights that it's not unusual for teens to have third helpings. "Allow this age group to eat to their appetite," she says, as they might be going through a growth spurt or a puberty developmental phase. "Sometimes, my daughter eats three times as much as me, and a week later, she's shot up in height."

Key nutrients
Vitamin D
Calcium
Magnesium

Ideal meal
Vegetable stir-fry with tofu and cashews



The frenetic 20s
20-29

This is the time in our life where we feel invincible and ready to conquer the whole world. Even a diet of cocktails, missed meals and kebabs won't hold us back.

And yet, our 20s are a crucial period. Most of us reach our peak bone mass between the ages of 25 and 30. This is when our bones are at their maximum strength and density. By building strong bones early in life through calcium intake and exercise, we prevent bone weakening later. Scrimping on vitamin D, calcium and magnesium could lead to later osteoporosis. Women are more at risk because they have smaller, thinner bones than men, and oestrogen, the hormone that protects bones, decreases sharply when women reach menopause.

As well as prioritising calcium and laying down our bone stores and magnesium for protecting them, iron is also key for women to replace menstrual losses, says Tew. "We know that a quarter of all women aged 19-64 are low in iron, which shows that people are not eating enough iron-rich foods," she says. As we throw everything we have at life, mental health can suffer, but as nutritionist Rob Hobson says: "Diet is crucial in maintaining mood. And mental health is a big issue for this age group, and a leading cause of premature death. Eating a balanced diet can go some way to helping ensure good mental health." He recommends focusing on eating regular meals that contain key nutrients to support mental health, such as B vitamins and magnesium. "This type of diet will also help to keep your blood sugar levels on an even keel," staving off lethargy and keeping energy levels high.



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Key nutrients
Polyphenols
Potassium
Omega-3
Vitamin B5

For pregnancy
Folate
Choline
Iodine
Vitamin D
Protein
Fibre

Ideal meal
Salmon with spinach and roasted vegetables, plus brown rice noodles.
Or a baked sweet potato with tinned mackerel and a side salad

Late youth (including the mothering years)
30-39

These can be the plate-spinning years. Our careers and relationships are falling into place and with that comes the stress of mortgages and family commitments.

We're not as young as we were and it's harder to bounce back as fast as we did. If your food mountain to this point has been a lighter shade of beige, then health niggles and observing ailing parents might have you reaching for the food rainbow.

While it might be tempting to put yourself on a restrictive diet of salads and excessive exercise, Tew warns that you still need a lot of energy at this age, "so carbs should be a third of your plate".

These are typically also the parenting years, where folate, choline, iodine, vitamin D, protein and fibre become crucial for mothers. Nine in 10 women have low blood levels of folate – essential for protecting the foetus from neural tube defects.

"Most people are aware that folic acid should be taken during pregnancy to reduce the risk of neural tube defects," says Wilson. "However, it is rarely made clear that, because population intake is so low, supplements should be taken for about three months before conception to get levels up." The British Dietetic Association recommends a daily supplement containing 400mcg during the preconception period. You can get folate from foods such as dark-green leafy vegetables, beans, peanuts, sunflower seeds and wholegrains.

She also worries about the level of iodine deficiency in women of child-bearing age in the UK. Iodine is required to make thyroid hormone, which controls the density of neurons in the brain.

The World Health Organisation describes iodine deficiency as "the single most important preventable cause of brain damage" worldwide. "Sadly, iodine deficiency is the norm, affecting 67 per cent of pregnant women in the UK," says Wilson. You can find iodine in seaweed, fish, shellfish, dairy and eggs.

Once pregnant, vitamin D and high-quality protein is needed for tissue growth, as well as fibre for bowel health, as many pregnant women will experience constipation.

For men, cutting back on the excesses of their 20s is essential for fertility, says Hobson. "If fertility is a goal, then you should avoid drinking and smoking, as it affects the health of your sperm. A heavy drinking session can affect them for several months, as it reduces the hormones required to make them." It takes more than 30 days for a sperm to reach maturity, so every time a man drinks in a 30-day period, he's exposing the developing sperm that many times to the alcohol.

Zinc is important for men, and especially those trying for a baby, as it is used for the production of male sex hormones. "Try eating foods such as eggs, nuts, seafood, seeds and wholegrains. Vitamin C is also important for fertility, as it has been shown to help prevent sperm from clumping together, which is a cause of infertility. You should get all the vitamin C you need from your diet by eating plenty of fruit and vegetables."

If stress is really prevalent, try taking magnesium, as the body is quickly depleted at times of prolonged stress. Low magnesium can also exacerbate anxiety, creating a vicious circle.

Those with one eye on the future will be laying down the nutrients now for a healthy later life by consuming a diet rich in antioxidant polyphenols (which may offer protection from the development of cancers, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and diabetes), potassium (associated with a lower risk of high blood pressure, kidney stones and osteoporosis), omega-3s (for heart and vascular health) and vitamin B5 (which has anti-ageing properties, as it soothes, softens and moisturises the skin and reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles). Who doesn't want to look good in old age?

ISTOCKPHOTO/EYE EM/GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY STOCK



Key nutrients
Calcium
Magnesium
Vitamin D
B vitamins

Ideal meal
Bulgur wheat with roasted vegetables, hummus and chicken

Middle age (including perimenopause)
40-59

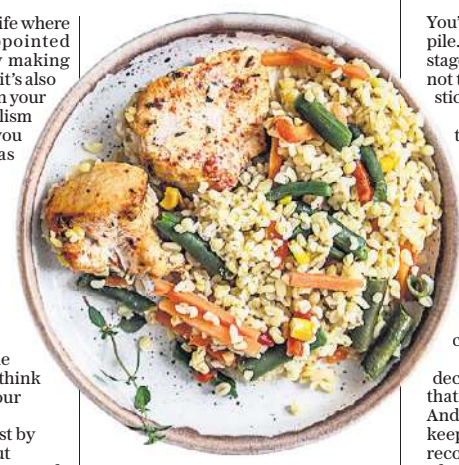
You've reached the stage in life where you may have a well-appointed kitchen and actually enjoy making dinner. The sad news is that it's also time to reduce the amount on your plate. Not only is the metabolism starting to slow down, but you probably aren't as active as you once were.

However, you should not go on a strict diet at this stage. "You don't want to put your body on a fad diet or a dramatic weight-loss regime," says Tew. "It's about sticking to this idea of regular meals and not skipping them, and having that balanced plate. Make the food you eat look delicious, think about how you can add flavour and nutrition."

Give your digestion a boost by making friends with your gut bacteria, treating them to a range of nutrients to munch on. This will help keep your digestion tiptop. "We don't pay enough attention to fibre and that has a real impact on digestive health," says Tew.

"Mix it up, introduce more wholegrains. Don't just have the same old rice and pasta." If you aren't already, chuck in some nuts and seeds. "People are quite scared of them, thinking they are high in calories and fats, but studies have shown we don't actually absorb all of them as they pass through our system." Try having 10 almonds on top of your cereal or morning yoghurt for a hit of magnesium, vitamin E, calcium and dietary fibre. "If you've had an entire bag of dry-roasted peanuts, you've perhaps gone a bit too far."

The menopause is a significant life layer that women have to cater for. "Iron is one shortfall to watch out for if periods become heavier," says Dr Ruxton. "For many women, weight gain and bloating can become problematic, with gut health a key consideration. B vitamins are needed to tackle mood swings, and hot flushes can have a severe impact on a woman's day-to-day life. Women also need to maintain their bone mineral density with vitamin D and calcium, as the ovaries stop producing protective oestrogen."



Meanwhile, men who breezed through their 20s and 30s might notice things start to spread around the waistline. "If you haven't done so before, then this is the time to take control of your weight," warns Hobson.

Focus on lean protein, healthy fats and foods high in fibre. "High-fibre foods, such as wholegrains, can also help to reduce the risk of diseases that may occur further down the line, such as bowel cancer and heart disease."

Try to avoid falling into an unhealthy eating stress trap. While your 40s can be a time of peak achievement and income, tiredness and time pressures take their toll. "Just when it's essential to get the pieces of the health puzzle in place to ensure healthy ageing, many men and women gain weight, become more sedentary and make unhealthy diet choices – with a few glasses of wine," says Dr Ruxton.



Key nutrients
Omega 3
Vitamin D
Vitamin A
Vitamin C
Probiotics
Prebiotics

Ideal meal
A Buddha bowl salad, with oily fish and seafood, leafy green vegetables, fibre-rich foods, berries and small amounts of organic fermented soy products, such as miso and tempeh

Older age
60+

You've made it to the top of the food pile. Those crucial developmental stages may be in the past, but now is not the time to kick back with a sticky-toffee pudding.

There's still so much you can do to eat your way to a long and healthy life.

"The challenge is to make every calorie count, given the 'perfect storm' of lower energy needs and similar or greater micronutrient requirements," says Dr Ruxton.

Meals need to be packed with all the nutrients that can help with muscle, digestion and cognitive decline.

To stave off muscle-mass decline, it's important to ensure that you are getting enough protein. And for post-menopausal women, keep getting your calcium. Tew recommends two to three portions of calcium-rich foods. "If you don't choose to have dairy in your diet, make sure your non-dairy options are fortified with calcium. Tofu also has calcium in it, as do green leafy vegetables."

Maintaining a healthy diet rich in fibre, lean protein and healthy fats, alongside plenty of fruit, vegetables and other plant-based foods, will help to reduce the risk of high blood pressure and cholesterol.

This will also help support your gut bacterial diversity, which declines with age, leaving the body more open to bacteria and viruses. "Probiotics and prebiotics can be helpful, while supplements of these can provide an alternative choice to live yoghurts, fermented foods, tea, onions, garlic and artichoke," says Dr Ruxton.

Immune health also needs a helping hand from our old friends vitamins A, C and D.

"As you get older, it can be more difficult to absorb certain nutrients through the gut, so you may want to try a vitamin D spray during the winter months to keep your levels topped up, and B12 is not a bad shout, either, especially if you follow a plant-based diet," says Hobson.

Dementia is the leading cause of death in the UK and women have twice the risk of developing Alzheimer's (the most common type of dementia) compared with men. While the middle years/perimenopause is a crucial period to start building cognitive reserves, Wilson points to emerging evidence that choline may be beneficial alongside supplemental DHA for post-menopausal women. "We know that a woman's risk for dementia increases after menopause with the drop in oestrogen production. Oestrogen is neuroprotective in lots of ways, but one of its actions is to turn up the activity of an enzyme called PEMT, which produces DHA-enriched choline. In recent studies, supplemental choline increased the uptake of DHA."

Remember, food is also about pleasure. If you love puddings, just have a smaller portion

Crucial foods for maintaining that cognitive reserve include oily fish and seafood, leafy green vegetables, fibre-rich foods, berries and small amounts of organic fermented soy products, such as miso and tempeh.

If your appetite has declined, keep asking yourself if you are meeting your needs and getting a good range of nutrients. "A few olives for omega-3s, or nuts and seeds can be a good way of packing in the nutrients," says Tew.

Staying away from rich food can help a sensitive tummy, but, remember, food is also about pleasure. "It's not just a boring, mundane task of chomping your way through a plate of salad every day." If you love puddings, just have a smaller portion.

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Sophia Money-Coutts

There's nothing wrong with being 'very British' – and in times like this, let's be proud of it

We don't have to keep calm, but we must carry on. It's what Her Majesty would've done



PHOTO ANDREW CROWLEY; DRESS SALONI; SHOES JENNIFER CHAMANDI. THANKS TO THE STAFFORD, LONDON

Another trait that might come in handy is having a sense of humour... even at funerals

A stiff upper lip and a 'concrete backbone' will get you through almost any disaster, says Sophia

For the family involved, the time between a beloved member's death and their funeral is a strange hiatus from normal life; lots to do while simultaneously trying to acclimatise to that person's sudden absence. People to ring, orders of service to print, flowers to order, meals – somehow – to be prepared and swallowed as you grieve. The past 10 days, for many of us, might have felt similar, or at least reminiscent of a discombobulating time when a much-loved parent or grandparent died. (I refuse to talk of "passing". What do you mean? The salt?)

Millions of us decided that we would lay flowers or a jar of Golden Shred in a royal park, or line up on a Scottish road, or go to church, or file past the late Queen's coffin in Westminster Hall. Perhaps you decided to pay your respects in a different, more private way. Each to their own, but there has been much to do and much to think about before tomorrow, when the country will gather as an enormous national family to say goodbye.

There have been tears and there will be more tears. There have been tributes and there will be more of those tomorrow, too. After that? The Royal household is expected to continue mourning for another week but the rest of us will need to get on with it, as the late Queen herself might have advised. The stiff upper lip has been much maligned in recent years by younger generations as old-fashioned, insensitive and downright damaging. Showing maximum emotion has become the currency, especially online, and those who are unable to do so have been castigated as out of touch, or told they need to seek therapy.

What its detractors miss entirely is that the stiff upper lip doesn't make one an uncaring, unthinking, unfeeling monster. You can care and feel all you like if you're a stiff-upper-lip sort, and you can even crumble. But it also means that, eventually, you dust yourself off and carry on. Look at the Royal family's behaviour in the past week or so – inspecting tributes outside Balmoral, issuing personal statements to underline how much Queen Elizabeth meant to them, accompanying their mother's coffin to Edinburgh and London. I humbly suggest that none of these activities makes them unfeeling or out of touch, and that they will have got through it by maintaining a certain rigidity to those upper lips. Once they've finished their period of official mourning, it will continue to sustain them.

The Royal family has learnt from example since the late Queen personified this approach to life. As historian Simon Schama wrote last weekend in a tribute: "Elizabeth II managed, when it counted most, to be the idealised personification of the nation, immune to hysteria, but open to social empathy."

In some quarters, it's become unfashionable to describe something as very British, as if being "very British" only has negative connotations. But it is a very British approach to carry on, to be immune to frothing hysteria.

In 1940, during the war and when she was just 14, the Queen made a BBC radio speech in which she concluded: "We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well." There were echoes of this all-will-be-well attitude in her Covid address to the nation in 2020 – "better days will return; we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again." What, I ask those who publicly weep and wail and gnash their teeth online, is so very wrong with that kind of calm in the face of, well, any sort of disaster?

"Darling, we need to pour some concrete into that spine," my grandmother told me when I was 11 and wailing as she drove me back to boarding school one Sunday afternoon, for she was of the same generation as Queen Elizabeth.

There may be Americans and even some Brits among you who take this horrifying anecdote as all the evidence you need that I was emotionally abused and am subsequently scarred from what was clearly a terrible and traumatic childhood. But I've been perfectly all right ever since.

I've had moments of despair like everyone, and it takes me roughly five years to get over a break-up, but apart from that, I'm fine. Pretty chipper most days, actually. After any drama, I wallow for a while and then I pick myself up. Onwards and sideways, as my stalwart mother always advises; advice that we may all need in the coming winter.

The other trait that's very British and might come in handy over the next few days (and months) is the ability to maintain a sense of humour. It was at the concrete-spine grandmother's funeral that I sobbed and then, aged 23, drank too much champagne and hiccupped the whole way home. But then my family has form when it comes to questionable (but with hindsight, faintly amusing) behaviour at funerals. At my other grandmother's funeral, I went to church wearing tie-dye trousers and flip flops because I was travelling on my gap year when she died, and decided to head straight from Sri Lanka to Kent, apparently not passing a shop that sold anything more suitable.

On the day of my great-aunt's funeral, one brother decided that was the day to get a new tattoo on his shaved head (he was due to meet his hero, Derren Brown, that evening), and while my sister and I tried to shield him from the more elderly, shockable members of the family in church, we ended up on a pew on the wrong side and my brother could be seen by almost everyone dabbing his weeping skull with a handkerchief throughout the service. The night before the funeral of another relative, a different sibling was asked by quite a mad aunt (we have a few) to help her dig the grave in the dark. At the memorial for my grandfather Bill [Deedes], my uncle read an extract from *Scoop*, and my mother from one of PG Wodehouse's Blandings Castle series, and the congregation laughed uproariously.

Memorials are obviously different to funerals, more celebratory than sad (incidentally, I wrote in my column a few weeks ago about the two-wedding wedding, and my wise uncle emailed to say the same trend is "mirrored" at the end of life, too. "Once upon a time, we all went to a funeral wearing black tie and morning suit and said a sad farewell with tears and one large scotch. Now, the funeral is a family-only affair, followed by a memorial service at which the ladies wear bright frocks, the men wear club ties and there's a very jolly knees-up afterwards.")

But while tomorrow will be deeply sad for the late Queen's family, for the country and many beyond, I suspect there may be moments when British humour peeks through. And, after that, a bit of the old stiff upper lip. It's what she would have wanted.

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PARENTING CONFESSIONS

My in-laws have spoilt my children – and now they're turning against me

Every year I'm the envy of many friends as I pack off our three children – aged seven, eight and 10 – for a week away at the coast with our in-laws who are fortunate enough to have a little cottage by the seaside.

The grandparents see it as their annual treat to take the children away during the summer holidays. Not only does it provide my husband and me with a week of free childcare while we work, but the children get a week of their grandparents' undivided love, attention and total indulgence. But that's just the problem.

Because we can see clearly that during this year's week with the grandparents practically all of the values that we've adhered to when bringing up our children were disregarded.

We didn't get many messages from the in-laws apart from a few photos of the kids – but we were stunned to see them in arcades as late at night as 10pm. My husband and I have never been gamblers and I never enjoyed arcades as a child – I was brought up to believe they're a waste of money, that you never come out on top, so I was shocked that my in-laws had seen it fit to take my children to one.

The children were also allowed to eat the most sugary cereals by the bowlful each morning for breakfast, washed down by can after can of fizzy drinks during the daytime. We'd never allow them such a feast at home.

When they got back, the children told us gleefully how they spent hours every day at the arcades, eating more pick 'n' mix than they could ever dream of. When I asked the eldest two if they had eaten any fruit or vegetables the whole week, I got a resounding "no".

We'd sent them down with iPads to help ease the pressure of long car journeys, but the children boasted of being allowed to watch them for hours each day.

Those weren't the only bugbears. The children were exhausted when they got back, having not gone to bed until way after their usual bedtimes. For three under-11s who still need their precious 12 hours, it must have been like a form of torture.

'I've spent years instilling good values, habits and diet into my kids'

The other ways they were spoiled on holiday proved more difficult to undo. Suddenly I was "unfair" for not allowing them the sugary cereals and fizzy drinks they'd grown used to.

When my husband and I take them away ourselves, they're grumpy that they can't spend hours in an arcade or sit glued to their tablets the entire time, as Granny and Granddad allowed.

I seem to have become the baddie because of the disregard that my in-laws showed for my own rules and values.

My husband says that he agrees with me, but I'm not convinced. He reckons that it's fairly harmless – it's just one week, and they are his parents after all. But he's not the one who has to pick up the pieces like I do as I try to make them understand why we don't let them do all the things that their grandparents did. He isn't being accused of being "mean" compared with Granny and Granddad.

I've spent years instilling good values, habits and diet into my kids and all of this work has been undone in a week. I feel like I've been totally undermined.

I'm wondering whether I should even let their grandparents take them away next year. I don't want to cause a family rift but I strongly believe that my children's health, and my sanity, depends on it.



ILLUSTRATION: LORNA MILLIGAN

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Two's company: the actor Martin Clunes with his wife, the producer Philippa Braithwaite

'It's a dream job, working with your spouse'

Martin Clunes tells Maureen Paton how he's a sucker for love stories, the secret to Doc Martin's success – and why working with his wife is just what the doctor ordered

It's rare that a woman gets to see her future husband without a stitch on before they've started dating, but that experience befell producer Philippa Braithwaite during the filming of the 1994 comedy *Staggered*.

It starred Martin Clunes (who also directed) as a hapless bridegroom-to-be who wakes up naked on the beach of a remote Scottish island after a particularly strenuous stag party. "What an introduction," says Braithwaite, laughing – which she and Clunes do rather a lot. They're giggling together on a sofa at the London offices of their independent production company, Buffalo Pictures, when I meet them to talk about the power dynamic of running a business together as a couple in real life.

A sense of humour certainly helps for Braithwaite. It was she who finally sent her actor husband – as uptight doctor Martin Ellingham – down the aisle with Caroline Catz's extremely attractive headmistress Louisa Glasson in series six of *Doc Martin*, ITV's long-running Cornish comedy-drama whose swansong series has just begun. "We had to – it was time," the producer explains of her executive decision to resolve the most protracted will-they-or-won't-they situation since Miss Adelaide's 14-year engagement to Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*.

As Clunes gleefully puts it, "The greatest pleasure of my working life is being allowed to fall in love with Caroline over and over again." Having to watch your husband kissing another woman on set, even if it was your idea in the first place, might seem odd to those outside the industry, but as a smiling Braithwaite explains, "I manage to put up a barrier – you are looking at an actor doing something…"

It's relatively uncommon in the world of entertainment for couples to run a production company together, especially if the man is the star but the woman is in charge; the only examples they know of are Hollywood A-lister Robert Downey Jr and his film producer wife, Susan. Braithwaite's approachable demeanour doesn't scream Big Boss Lady; instead, she says their working partnership is "a collaborative affair. Martin and I discuss decisions together, though not 24/7; we try not to let it encroach on our weekends.

'Some doctors have even contacted our show to say that my character is too nice'

"Who is the calm one? We take it in turns… I worry about budgets and I put out fires, so I think it helps to be married to someone who understands the business. But then I've never been married to anyone else, so I don't know," adds Braithwaite, 58, whose CV includes 1998's *Sliding Doors*, with Gwyneth Paltrow.

Clunes, still baby-faced at 60, with those expressive rubber features, maintains: "I do the dressing up and farting around. At the end of the day, I eat, learn my lines and fall asleep. But marriage is a partnership of many sides, isn't it?"

In a business with its fair share of prima donnas, the Cluneses come across as a grounded, very ungrand pair. They run their own farm near Beaminster, in Dorset, where they keep five cattle, six horses (a particular passion), five chickens, four dogs and two cats after downsizing from a bigger menagerie. So embedded are they in the county to which they return each weekend after filming in Cornwall that Clunes has been made a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset, which involves representing the Crown at various events.

They have been married since 1997 and have a daughter, Emily, who is 23 next month and manages a horse rehabilitation centre, as well as competing in riding events. "She's our expert in all things equestrian. We were thrilled that the acting gene hasn't been passed down to her," says Clunes, son of the late actor Alec Clunes but not one to view thespianism through rose-tinted glasses.





HEATHCLIFF O'MALLEY; JUDE EDGINTON; NEIL GENOWER

Taking the reins: the couple's horses are a particular passion

Surgical spirit: Clunes in the latest – and final – series of *Doc Martin*, with Fay Ripley

"Because of my involvement as co-director of Buffalo, I really understand what everyone does on the set – which not all the entire acting profession does," he says drily. "They can sometimes walk on set mid-anecdote in an actor's bubble and just assume that theirs is the only work going on that day. I'm aware of that and I don't subscribe to that; I like to be businesslike."

Doc Martin's eccentric Cornish escapism, originally created by Anthony Minghella's younger writer brother Dominic, began in 2004 with the story of a gifted but grouchy GP who gets every diagnosis right while infuriating many of his patients with his lack of interpersonal skills. He's the grit in the oyster of Portwenn, the fictional hamlet played by the real-life Port Isaac, on the north Cornish coast, which has received such a boost to visitor numbers that Cornwall Tourism bestowed a special award upon the show. In a county that has often seen Nimbyist battle lines drawn up between locals and newcomers, Buffalo Pictures has put something back into the community by making regular contributions to Port Isaac's village funds.

As for the doc's brusque refusal to cosy up to his patients, Clunes says with relish: "Some doctors have even contacted our show to say that my character is actually too nice." That uncompromising "alpha doctor" attitude seems to have struck a chord with viewers, who want decisiveness in an uncertain world, not dithering. "A doctor like that keeps people on their toes," says Braithwaite. "When you go to the doctor now, they ask you to make decisions for them by asking which treatment you would prefer, which I hate. When I broke my ankle while horseriding, the anaesthetist said I had three choices and which one did I prefer? I said, 'The one that doesn't kill me!' But handing responsibility for the decision to the patient seems to be the culture now."

They feel particularly gratified that the show has been a life-saving one for the viewer who wrote to thank them for the storyline in which Doc Martin yells at a laboratory technician down the phone, "He's a smoker with a lump in his throat, would you like the tumour to write to you?" A man watching was a smoker who realised he had the same symptom and rushed off to his GP, eventually being successfully treated for throat cancer. "Our medical adviser Dr Martin Scurr comes up with all the conditions featured in the stories and insists on absolute accuracy, because these things matter – even if it's comedy-drama," explains Braithwaite.

The show has been sold all over the world, and is especially popular in America and Australia. Among its celebrity fans are the new King and Queen (then Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall), who paid them a set visit; Anthony Hopkins, who asked to guest-star (but couldn't make the dates work out); Sigourney Weaver (who did appear, twice); and singer Sir Tom Jones (who binge-watched it in LA during lockdown). "Camilla was thrilled to meet all the characters," recalls Clunes of the royal visit. "Charles was a bit bemused. He said he does watch it, but didn't know as much as Camilla about it," adds Braithwaite, only for Clunes to retort: "But he liked meeting Jessica… [Ransom, who plays the eye-catching former surgery receptionist Morwenna]."

The show has attracted more than 10 million viewers over 18 years, and its 10th and final series began on Sept 7 and will be rounded off by a Christmas special in December, with Claire Bloom reprising her guest role as Doc Martin's mother. "I know I'll never have another job like it again. It's a dream job, working with your spouse. This industry takes people away from their families – but not in this case," says Clunes. Every-

'Camilla was thrilled to meet all the characters, though Charles was a bit bemused'

thing has been filmed down in Cornwall, with a grain barn used as a studio for interior shots, so Braithwaite has been there for the entirety of each four- to five-month shoot – which has taken place every other year.

Yet theirs is not always a 24/7 working partnership, since she doesn't often join Clunes for the filming of his globe-trotting *Islands* documentary series, which their company also makes. "It's such a small crew," she explains, only for her husband to weigh in with a teasing chortle: "Nothing to do with sleeping in hastily built huts in remote locations… But the island of New York and its shops? Oh yes!"

The happy marriage of its makers is central, it appears, to the way that *Doc Martin* has panned out thematically over nearly two decades. "No other long-running series like this had a love story like the Doc and Louisa at its heart," says Clunes, who admits to "loving love stories. You don't have that in *Morse* or *Endeavour* or *Midsomer Murders* or other long-runners. I think it's quite clever to keep that element alive for so long, because people really tune into it. Other shows I've made, such as *William and Mary*, have been love stories; so was *Staggered*, in a way – and even *Men Behaving Badly*."

Yet the couple feel that the current fashion for darker TV fare makes it harder for family-orientated shows such as *Doc Martin* to be made these days. "People can sit down with their children and grannies and watch it, which is now quite unusual. There aren't enough of such shows, but they always do well in the ratings," says Braithwaite.

"It's quite hard to manufacture drama out of humour and wit when you've got the easy option of holding a gun to someone's head," remarks her husband. "It's the cruelty in some current drama that I find more and more that I can't stand. A way of licensing people to show such cruelty is to say that it's depicting a fictitious state, or that they're zombies or vampires. But it's still human cruelty – and fetishising violence."

They themselves have their own thriller series already commissioned, *Out There*, about the county-lines network of young drug runners across the country, with a central role for Clunes; I'm intrigued to see their depiction of this very dark subject matter. Two other projects in development are *Biba*, a dramatisation of the colourful life of the Swinging Sixties clothes designer Barbara Hulanicki, and *Lone Ranger*, a comedy-drama with Clunes's former *Men Behaving Badly* co-star Caroline Quentin as a forest ranger.

Does Clunes stamp his foot and insist on his wife letting him have a starring role in everything they make? "Nah, Philippa is always trying to elbow me out to make way for the younger folk," he jokes. "So I think my love-story days are over…"

Doc Martin is on ITV on Wednesdays at 9pm, with a Christmas special and a documentary to follow in December

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Mrs Clay's guide to household thrift

This week... *marmalade*

Xanthe Clay seeks out the best value staples to make you a savvier shopper



"Bought marmalade? Oh dear, I call that very feeble." Maggie Smith at her most regal, as Constance Trentham in *Gosford Park*, the film that did Downton before Downton. Could the Dowager Countess be right? Is bought marmalade a travesty?

The truth is that even you clever people who do make your own marmalade, or who source it from generous friends and family (that's even cleverer), may be running a bit low. The first Seville oranges, the bitter orange that's key to a good flavour, won't be in the shops until December; so unless you're a preserve paragon with the foresight to freeze some (I certainly don't have space in my freezer) you'll be buying it for the next few months.

The good news is, more of us are buying it. Marmalade sales have been in the doldrums for years, but lockdowns led them to rise by 11 per cent, which is definitely a source of cheer for those of us who felt sad at the prospect of the demise of this very British breakfast spread.

Jam is all very well for the sweet-toothed; but bitter marmalade has a more sophisticated note

Jam is all very well for the sweet-toothed; but the bitter notes of a true marmalade give it a particularly sophisticated note. It's the negroni of fruit spreads, and, in fact, has been turning up in cocktails for the last decade, which has improved its cool rating.

There's certainly a huge range of prices. Fortnum & Mason, who sponsor the annual marmalade awards up at Dalemain House in the Lake District and can definitely be counted among the Friends of Marmalade, stock more than two dozen varieties, including the winning recipe this year: Mike Ranson's Seville Orange and Cider Marmalade with Calvados (£6.95 for 340g; £2.04 per 100g).

Also at Fortnum's, there's an 890g jar of Sir Nigel's Vintage Orange Marmalade that will set you back £14.95 (£1.67 per 100g) while 340g of their Monarch Marmalade is a mere £4.95 (£1.45 per 100g).

Both of these seem positively democratic next to the 220g jar of Seville Orange Marmalade from the excellent Single Variety Co, which Selfridges is selling for £6.99, more than £3 per 100g.



Sticky situation: home-made may well be the best way, but there are some supermarket marmalades that can hold their own

The cheaper brands start at around 11p per 100g, so there's a huge saving to be had. One way these save on cost, though, is by using a high proportion of glucose-fructose syrup rather than sugar. This sweetener, also known as high-fructose corn syrup, is generally considered to be A Bad Thing, and one of the factors behind the worldwide rise in obesity and diabetes. But hey, it's cheaper than sugar.

Another cost-cutting trick is making marmalade with less fruit. Budget jars mostly contain as little as 20 per cent fruit (although one, the Aldi thick-cut Grandessa, packs an impressive 40 per cent).

At 20 per cent, you can't expect much in the way of flavour, so the producers have a battery of boosters in their cupboard, including concentrated orange juice, orange purée and orange oil – none of which features in recipes for home-made marmalade as a rule.

Testing my way through 18 marmalades, I looked for a good balance of sweet, bitter and tangy, with a lingering flavour. I also kept an eye on texture.

Some had hard peel – a cardinal sin that all marmalade makers know comes from insufficient boiling of the fruit before adding sugar.

But most of the jars were plagued with another problem: too firm a set, so the marmalade was hard and grainy. Admittedly, a sloppy marmalade is also far from ideal, but that's a problem you're far more likely to experience with the home-made version than at the supermarket.

This hardness comes from adding too much pectin and acid – all the marmalades I tried contained added ingredients for sourness, generally citric acid or "sour salt" sodium citrate.

So, the Countess was right: nothing beats home-made. But, in the meantime, on the right you'll find some very acceptable alternatives – and a couple of decidedly feeble ones.

Beyond breakfast

Chocolate
Chocolate and orange is the Marmite of the sweet world, but proponents love the bitter tang the fruit provides. Marmalade can be mixed into a chocolate tart, or simply smeared between two squares of dark chocolate for a sweet treat.

Pork
Pork loves sweetness, so it's no surprise that marmalade is a perfect match. Make a sticky sauce for ribs, glaze a ham – or simply swap with your regular ketchup or brown sauce to make a bittersweet bacon butty.

Salad dressings
Add to a salad dressing, especially if that salad contains carrot. A slaw of carrot, fennel and chilli sweetened with a little marmalade is divine.



Cocktails
Turbo-boost martinis and mimosas with a teaspoon of marmalade; or for a quick, easy long drink, stir two tablespoons of marmalade into 60ml gin and 45ml lemon juice.

Tomé Morrissy-Swan

THE PEEL DEAL

Six supermarket marmalades tasted and tested



Aldi Grandessa Bittersweet Thick-cut Marmalade 52p/454g (11.5p/100g) *aldi.co.uk*
I had high hopes for this with its 40 per cent fruit content and dark colour. But while there's a nice smell with hints of caramel, and the flavour is fruity-bitter, it's too hard and grainy.
★★☆☆☆



M&S Fine-cut Seville Orange Marmalade £2.10/340g (61.8p/100g) *ocado.com*
Free from glucose-fructose syrup, this has a hefty 38 per cent fruit. The smell is oddly chemical-like and it's a bit pricier, but the flavour it's a lovely fruity-bitter-tangy combination.
★★★☆☆



BEST BUY

Sainsbury's Orange Marmalade, Medium-cut 60p/454g (13p/100g) *sainsburys.co.uk*
Turn the jar upside down and the jelly flops around – showing it's not overly firm. It smells of orange sweets but tastes tangy (it's 30 per cent fruit), with a pleasing bitter-sweet peel aftertaste.
★★★★☆



Waitrose Essential Seville Orange Fine-cut Marmalade £1/454g (22p/100g) *waitrose.com*
The smell is a whiff of orange on the breeze – is there a tree over the hill? It's on the firm side (when will supermarkets learn to use less pectin?) but the flavour is good and fruity.
★★★★☆



Lidl Maribel Fine-cut Orange Marmalade 59p/454g (13p/100g) *lidl.co.uk*
There's a thick-cut version, too, which tastes similar but is quite grainy. This one makes for a softer spoonful. A bit chemical smelling, but good flavour and no glucose-fructose syrup, a standout at this price.
★★★☆☆



Tesco Fine-cut Orange Marmalade 70p/454g (16p/100g) *tesco.co.uk*
Stockwell & Co, Tesco's budget brand (52p, 11.5p per 100g), has 20 per cent fruit, like this pricier version, but it's pretty bland and sweet. This has a savour of orange squash: the peel is a bit hard, but it would be fine on toast.
★★☆☆☆

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Five pages of style, shopping & hot topics to make your weekend just a little bit more fun

Stella



TELEGRAPH EXTRA

Win! A week at the Constantinou Bros Asimina Suites Hotel, Cyprus

Summer may be ending here – but one *Telegraph* subscriber and a guest can keep the sunshine vibes rolling with seven nights at this luxurious, all-suite boutique hotel, complete with private beach and sumptuous dining. The dream.

See telegraph.co.uk/extra-stella

Dress, £695, Borgo de Nor

Autumn is brought to you in glorious technicolour with BDN's latest collection – full of vibrant, retro-inspired prints sure to keep you smiling. *(borgodenor.com)*



Cushion, £189, MindTheGap

With its bright hues and folksy motifs, luxe textile house MindTheGap is inviting us to Tyrol for the new season – and we'd love to come along. *(mindtheg.com)*





Moonage Daydream

There's no shortage of documentaries on David Bowie, but here comes the most ambitious of them all. More "cinematic experience" than rock doc, director Brett Morgen (*The Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane*, *Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck*) uses rare live footage, archive material, Bowie's own video art and TV interviews to weave a riotous, psychedelic film that's almost as spellbinding as the man himself. *Out now in IMAX and all cinemas from Friday*

Cherry ice bucket, £159, Matilda Goad & Co for Anthropology

Boutique London homeware designer Matilda Goad has arrived on the high street, and she has brought her quirky, fun-filled aesthetic with her. *(anthropologie.com)*





Time to Shine Colour Protect Shampoo, from £8.50, Percy & Reed

Restore your post-holiday hair: good health and great colour is just a wash away. *(percyandreed.com)*

Leather bag, £350, Kate Spade

Kate Spade's Sam Bag made its debut in the brand's first ever collection and has been brought back in high-shine leather. *(katespade.co.uk)*



Athen OG, £85, Adidas Originals at Size?

Taken from the Adidas archives, four exclusive colourways of the Athens style are being released at Size? in a limited run. Race you… *(size.co.uk)*

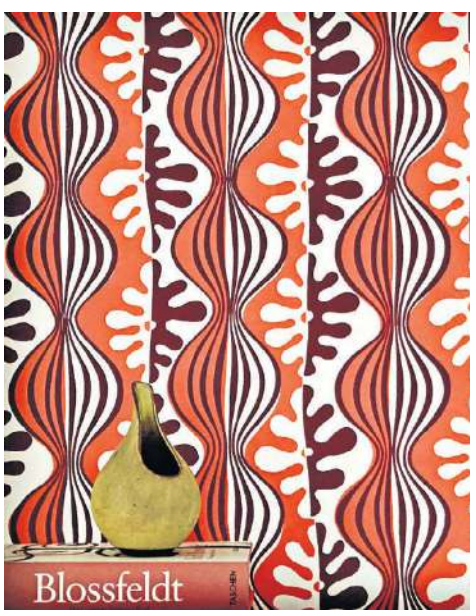


This week we love

Our must-haves and must-sees, from fashion and films to music and exhibitions

Coral huggie hoops, £69, Daisy Jewellery

A cute, colourful switch-up from your normal gold hoops. *(daisyjewellery.com)*



Wild Wiggle wallpaper, £79, Fiona Howard

Let's get maximalist, people. *(fionahoward.com)*

Black Cow Negroni, £28 for 50cl

This was supposed to have been Negroni Week – who knew? – but it was postponed out of respect for the late Queen. However, you may wish to toast her memory at home with this outstanding ready mix. *(blackcow.co.uk)*

(self-titled) by Marcus Mumford

When making a much anticipated debut solo album, it's never a bad idea to call in a little help from your friends. Especially when your friends are Phoebe Bridgers, Clairo, Brandi Carlile and Monica Martin. Their guest tracks are just a few highlights from Marcus Mumford's new record, which fuses emotional intimacy with all the pop-friendly folk charm needed to keep & Sons fans happy. *Out now*

Bioclear supplement, £76 for 30 servings, Dr David Jack

Treat problem skin from the inside out with this nutrient-packed supplement, which helps fight hormonal breakouts, keeps your gut ticking over – and tastes pretty darned good, too. *(drdavidjack.com)*



HOT TICKET: THE CRUCIBLE

… And the autumn stage season is off with a bang: thanks to a major National Theatre revival of Arthur Miller's classic allegory. Starring Erin Doherty (right) – aka Princess Anne in *The Crown* – its powerful new take on the Salem witch trials promises to get everyone talking. *Until 5 Nov; nationaltheatre.org.uk*

Bil Donovan: The Art of Elegance

With London Fashion Week in respectful progress, there's no more apt time to doff our (Philip Treacy) caps to illustrator Bil Donovan. Following a career spanning three decades, and which saw him become Dior's first-ever artist in residence, a solo show is long overdue – and this collection of collages, paintings and stunning Christian Dior studies show him to be a master of the form. Open today at Cromwell Place, London SW7; then from Tuesday to 29 Oct at Gray MCA, Bath BA1 2LP. *(graymca.com)*



Viscose top, £110, Jigsaw

The perfect layering piece to add a pop of colour to any outfit. *(jigsaw-online.com)*



Nail Polish in Papillon, £15, Kure Bazaar

Toxin-free, 90 per cent natural origin, sweet new-season shade. Win-win-win. *(naturisimo.com)*



Gabriella dress, £95, Aligne

This style was a sell-out success in the summer, so get in there fast for autumn's delicious dip-dye take. *(aligne.co)*



FILMMAGIC

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Ageless style

A classic white shirt has your back

From smart-casual to easy glam, it's the staple that covers all bases, says Alyson Walsh

Over the past few years, I have warmed to the white shirt. Perhaps the much-lauded wardrobe classic can be viewed objectively now that I'm closer to 60 than school age, and I can appreciate the functionality of this plain, regulation garment.

At the 2022 Oscars, Uma Thurman, 52, paid homage to her 1994 *Pulp Fiction* character, Mia Wallace, in a beautiful white silk shirt and black full-length skirt by Bottega Veneta. Perfectly accessorised with stunning Cartier earrings – and a dance with John Travolta. Dressed in Valentino's cropped white shirt and a silver-sequined floor-length skirt, *Dune* actress Zendaya displayed a revised version of the popular red-carpet ensemble (some might say the 26-year-old only had half a shirt on), but I prefer to take the holistic approac – this iconic garment, also worn by Kristen Stewart, 32, with a black satin Chanel tuxedo jacket and shorts, is a superb example of ageless style.

The essential white shirt stands the test of time, though it may need to be brightened every now and then. And rather than chasing "September Issue" fashion trends, opting for its simplicity chimes with present-day thinking on sustainability. Choosing monochrome outfits and a low-key aesthetic is also an easy way to look polished, whatever your age, size or budget – and it's one of the reasons for the resurgence of vintage 1990s fashion, from designer brands such as Helmut Lang and Ralph Lauren, and the popularity of the late Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy's enduring style on Instagram.

The former Calvin Klein publicist, married to John F Kennedy Jr, died tragically in a plane crash in 1999. The "Queen of New York minimalist chic" is celebrated today via numerous fan pages including @carolynbessette, @officialcarolynbessettekennedy and @carolyn_iconic. Always understated, never showy, her refined image made the most of everyday pieces: she often paired her white shirt with faded jeans, classic chinos and an elegant black, evening skirt.

Going a little bit further back, I loved Peter Lindbergh's supermodel shots on the beach for *Vogue* in 1988. Linda Evangelista, Tatjana Patitz and Christy



CLAIRE PEPPER; HAIR & MAKE-UP: LOUISE HEYWOOD; FASHION ASSISTANT: ALICE DENCH

ALYSON WEARS

White shirt from a selection at matchesfashion.com; jeans, Alyson's own; Olivera large hoop, gold vermeil earrings, £115, from Auree Jewellery

THREE TIPS FOR WHITE SHIRT WEARERS

EASY STYLE
Push up the cuffs, pop open the collar and unbutton your shirt for a relaxed feel. For the last sunny days of summer, try a loose linen shirt over a camisole or white vest top

TUCK IT
Experiment when tucking in to achieve the perfect finish. The French tuck is great for adding a little definition and insouciance (half tucked at the front and loose at the back) or try a total tuck, if you want to play up your waist

AUTUMN LAYERING
Leave the shirt's cuffs and collar peeping out from beneath a cashmere jumper. You can also wear a white shirt underneath a pair of dungarees, pinafore or jumpsuit – or layer one over a striped jersey rollneck

THREE OF THE BEST White shirts

Pintuck poplin shirt (£48.30)
coastfashion.com



Ruffle trim collar shirt (£75)
boden.co.uk



Macramé shirt (£69)
cos.com



Turlington dressed in oversized white shirts and bikinis. Another noteworthy white-shirt moment was Patti Smith as featured on the cover of *Horses* (1975). Basic is never boring.

Rather than the traditional, plain Oxford style, I prefer dress shirts with a bib front, ruffles or pintucks, the extra detail adding a rakish spin to any outfit. When I want to look more business-like, I'll style a cotton poplin top over a colourful skirt or eye-catching printed trousers. The timeless white shirt is a blank canvas. Wear one with a silk scarf or cravat tucked in at the neck, opt for big dangly earrings and an armful of bangles, and apply a bolder-than-usual lipstick. And the good news is, this multi-talented garment is excellent for layering. Try one under a jumpsuit, pinafore or waistcoat.

Alternatively, roll up the sleeves, leave a few buttons open and pull one on over a striped jersey rollneck. Whether you go for easy glamour, over-dressed or undressed (on the beach), the white shirt is a hardworking winner.

Read more from Alyson at thatsnotmyage.com

COMPLETE THE LOOK



Monsoon linen blend midi skirt (£49)
johnlewis.com



Keshi pearl large hoop earrings (£140)
monicavinader.com



Autograph pure silk neckerchief (£29.50)
marksandspencer.com



M&S Collection wide-leg jeans (£29.50)
marksandspencer.com



Striped cotton roll neck (£59)
lavenderhillclothing.com



The Frankie Shop Gelso waistcoat (£195)
matchesfashion.com

THE MIDULTS
Annabel Rivkin and Emilie McMeekan

Q Dear A&E; I'm struggling to make friends at the school gate. My son is eight and I've known many of the parents since reception. I have lots of friends but I still haven't found my school 'crew'. I hear all the mums planning dinners out, but I'm never invited. They all seem friendly and nice – so how do I move from hellos at drop-off to drinks on a Friday night? – *Left Out*



Dear Left Out,

A The school gates are strange and political places. The soundtrack of squawking children and the wallpaper of colourful art projects and rattling charity buckets cons us all into thinking that they are cosy places, but they are riddled with anxieties and hierarchies and neurosis. Do not, for one second, think you are alone in worrying about how your school relationships are going.

There is an illusion, perpetrated since time immemorial, that when your child starts a new school, you will be served up a ripe, fizzing new social life made up of super-fun, liked-minded people. It's a bit like what they say about the 1960s: there were three people locked in a room somewhere getting stoned and rolling around in free love while the rest of the population read about it in the papers and wondered where they might find the key.

But there is so much volume at the school gates. So much gossip and so many plans shrieked across the road as people are walking away. "We must try that new coffee place… I'll text you about Wednesday night… Let's aim for Friday morning tennis…" It can sometimes feel as though you, yourself, are back in the playground, hopping from foot to foot, waiting to see if you will be picked last for the netball team. It is easy to believe that everyone is having a better time than you; making better friendships and more of them.

Remember, Left Out, that most of these plans do not come to fruition. People with school-age children are often overstretched financially and energetically, and so "pretending" to make plans is as often as far as these things get. Sure, there are some power mothers who are the organisers, but they rarely get a full turnout because life gets in the way. There is really no point fretting about a "crew" that may not exist.



ILLUSTRATION: R. FRESSON / A HUMAN AGENCY

Write to us
Do you have a dilemma that you're grappling with? Email Annabel and Emilie on themidults@telegraph.co.uk. All questions are kept anonymous. They are unable to reply to emails personally

You – like us – are bound to know someone who made an absolute hatful of school-gate friends 10 years ago and still go on holiday together every year. You probably also know someone whose children are teenagers, yet their NCT squad is still their ride or die. And then there are the ones who still live firmly in the pockets of their university friends and own a timeshare together. These situations certainly exist. But most of us have ragtag bits and pieces that form our friendships. They ebb and flow. They come and go. Some are for life and others are just for Year 2. This is not to say that there isn't an opportunity to make good friends through school. Just don't rely on the shouty, hurried, harried school gate.

It might be time for you to go one-on-one. Suggest a walk with one of the other mothers. Or a cup of coffee. It isn't all about getting spangled on a Friday night with loads of them and, anyway, groups are boring if there aren't individual, nutritious relationships operating within them. Chemistry is chemistry and you will know after the first walk or coffee if you are, perhaps, destined to be friends or merely to end up bitching about a particular teacher or PTA push for hour upon dispiriting hour.

Volunteer. Decorate the school for Christmas or man the bake sale. This is where chats happen and friendships grow as you are all stuck there making paper chains or admiring the intricate, sugar- and gluten-free cupcakes delivered by the terrifying mother who always has a blow-dry and whose children having been doing Kumon maths and Mandarin since they were two. If your child plays sport, hang out on the touchlines. Common ground will be found, and then you can act accordingly and turn moaning about watching football in the rain into… a plan.

But, most of all, remember this: these school-gate days are transitory. This stage of life inevitably prompts parents to examine their own lives and decisions. You have lots of friends unrelated to school, so your talent for friendship is not in doubt. If you are OK and your child is OK, then you are completely winning.

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The six best haircare brands you've never heard of

An obsession with hair health has left us spoilt for choice when it comes to products but these are the ones you need right now, says Becci Vallis

It probably wasn't that long ago when the products you used on your hair would likely have been dictated by which supermarket you were in, what was on offer or how your hair was looking that day – freshly coloured, limp, frizzy or in need of repair.

However, over the past 18 months, there's been a seismic shift in how we care for our hair. Spurred on by the "skinification" of the scalp, ingredient innovations and a demand for more natural alternatives away from chemicals linked with damage, sensitivities and stripping, there are now almost as many indie haircare brands emerging as there are in skincare.

And just because you don't recognise the name doesn't mean they're not worth the investment. From masks to serums, pre-shampoos to curl conditioners, hours of research and development – along with sustainability tests to make sure the formulas and packaging have as little impact on the environment as possible – these products have been designed to prioritise the planet and the consumer over profits. Here are some of the trailblazers to try…



BEST FOR: curly hair

Innersense Organic Beauty, Quiet Calm Curl Control, £24

cultbeauty.co.uk

Innersense isn't a new brand but it only launched into the UK from America in 2019 and has been a slow burning success ever since. Developed by husband and wife hairdressers after their daughter was born with a rare genetic disorder that called for an organic and chemical-free lifestyle, rather than ranges, there are "ceremonies" to pick between and each product is scented with essential oils to elevate the experience. The "Enliven Curls" is one of the most popular and includes a Curl Control and Hydrating Cream Conditioner that uses shea butter to define and hydrate curls so they fall into place without any static. The Refresh Dry Shampoo is another worthy mention – rather than a spray, it's a clever foam-to-powder formula that mops up grease.



BEST FOR: thick hair

Rahua Classic Shampoo, £34

feelunique.com

Remember when argan oil was all the rage? Well this range is built entirely on rahua oil after the brand founder, a renowned hairstylist from New York, visited the Amazon rainforest and found himself surrounded by women with thick, lustrous waist-length hair, sans frizz. Sustainably sourced from the rahua tree nut, while the products aren't solely for dense, hard-to-manage hair, the viscosity and absorption rate of the oil means hair laps it up and in return is rewarded with shine, strength and the ability to lock in moisture – which explains the lack of flyaways and pouffiness. Great for extending colour endurance too, the Classic Shampoo is the brand's cult product and a consistent award winner.

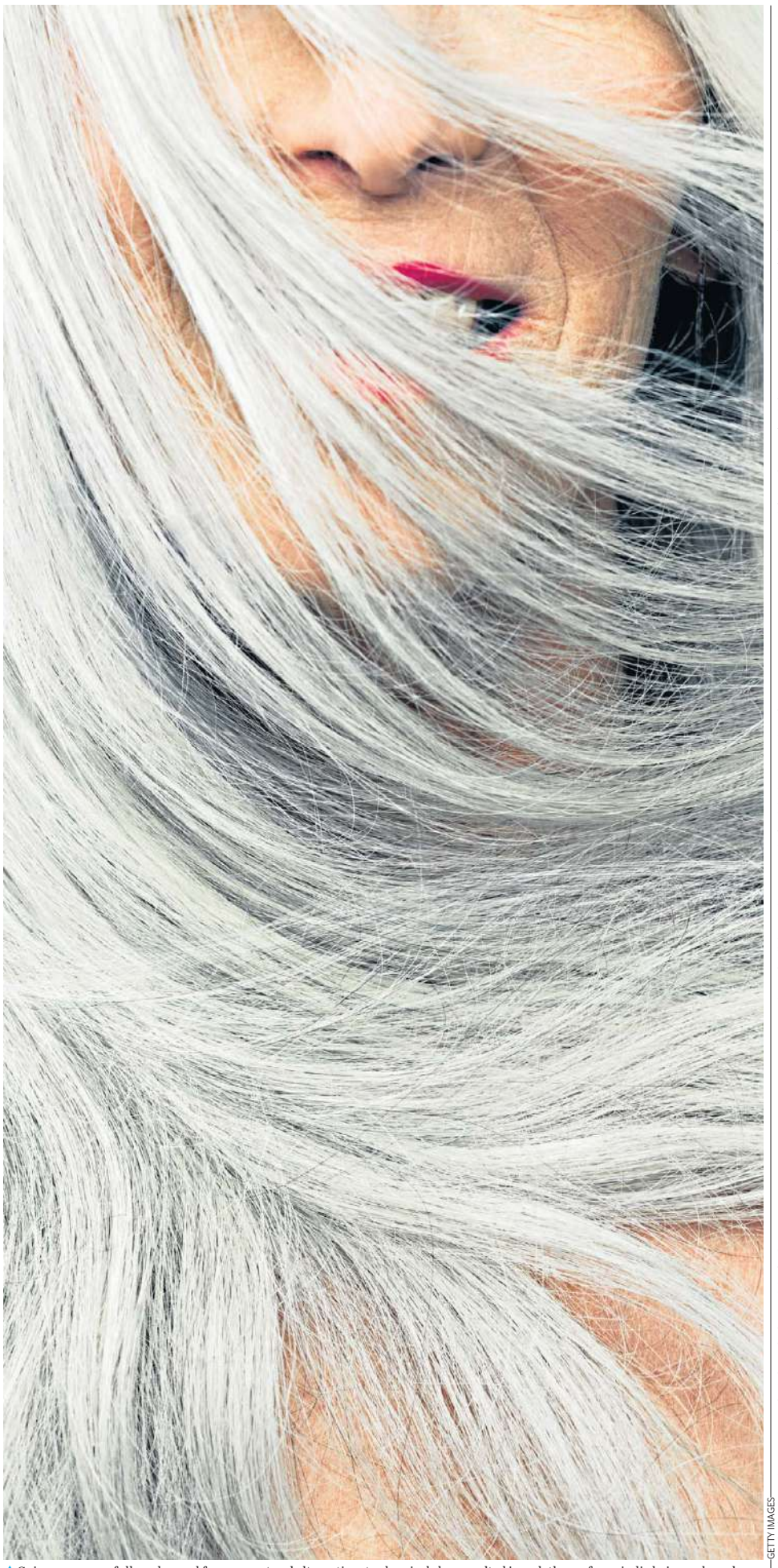


BEST FOR: damaged hair

JVN Hair, Complete Instant Recovery Serum, £24

spacenk.com

If you're not familiar with the makeover series *Queer Eye*, you may not be aware of its resident hair stylist Jonathan Van Ness, but his reputation clearly precedes him. When his gender-neutral products launched on Space NK at the start of this year they quickly became the site's bestselling haircare line ever, with the Instant Recovery Serum receiving 739 per cent more sales than initially forecast. The secret to its success, besides the person behind the products, is the unique hemisqualane molecule that's at the heart of every formula. Unlike traditional silicone-based formulas that simply smooth the outer cuticles to give the appearance of healthier hair, this intelligent ingredient has the ability to penetrate the hair shaft and strengthen strands from the inside out.



Going grey gracefully: a demand for more natural alternatives to chemicals has resulted in a plethora of new indie haircare brands

GETTY IMAGES



BEST FOR: coloured hair

R+Co, Gemstone Ultra Shine Glossing Treatment, £34

cultbeauty.co.uk

Besides the fact this range will brighten up your bathroom and that the names of the products will make you want to use them even if they're not suited to your hair – Television Perfect Shampoo, Velvet Curtain Cotton Touch Texture Balm, High Dive Moisture Shine, this is a brand loved by session stylists and beauty editors alike. It was actually created by a collective of hairdressers who were desperate to produce products that would make their – and their clients' – lives easier. Sulphate, paraben-free and void of mineral oils, the Gemstone collection is good at prolonging colour and provides protection from heat and UV – two things that are the equivalent of paint stripper for the pigments in your hair, whether it's dyed or not. A superb choice if you've recently decided to embrace your greys.



BEST FOR: thinning hair

Vegamour, GRO Hair Serum, £52

uk.vegamour.com

Hair loss is one of the most common complaints hairdressers are witnessing in 2022 and comes as a result of stress, poor diet, lack of sleep, hormonal changes and, for some, long Covid. Vegamour – Nicole Kidman's swear-by haircare brand – was designed to address the early stages of shedding and support the hair's follicular ecosystem so you don't lose any more hairs than normal (between 50 and 100 a day). Using karmatin, a one-of-a-kind patented vegan keratin that bonds to hair to strengthen, nourish and repair, the hero product is the GRO Hair Serum, which can be bought individually or as part of a three-month course to ensure best results. In the US, one sells every 22 seconds.



BEST FOR: sensitive scalps

K18 Peptide Prep pH Maintenance Shampoo, £39

cultbeauty.co.uk

They might not be the sexiest-looking products but this biotech brand is the equivalent of dermatological skincare. Science-led liberators, after 10 years in the lab researching how to penetrate the inner most layers of hair, K18 created the K18 Peptide, which is just the right size to infiltrate the hair's keratin chains and reconnect broken bonds. Launching with the Leave-in Molecular Repair Hair Mask, the latest innovations are the Peptide Prep shampoos, which are available in detox and pH maintenance variants. The latter is a must if you have a sensitive scalp or are prone to flakiness as it helps to balance the skin's microbiome, which in turn means you're less likely to experience irritation. It's also the first shampoo to receive microbiome-friendly certification.

With these crèmes de la cream, who needs Botox?

Lucia Ferrari tests high-performance skincare products that can help prolong the benefits of tweakments

Following the pandemic, when so many people over-analysed their faces thanks to hours spent on Zoom, the beauty industry saw a rise in tweakments. But now there's a further development.

Overzealous tweakments are waning, says Dr David Jack, whose clients are expecting more from high-performance skincare as they cut back on procedures. Now, the "less is more" approach has driven a rise in post-procedure creams claiming to extend the longevity of certain treatments and therefore reduce repeat visits.

Plastic surgeon Dr Yannis Alexandrides, founder of 111Skin, agrees: "My aim is to create products that minimise people's need to come into a clinic, as clients are now seeking a more natural look." Skincare technology and ingredients are now so advanced, says Alexdrides, "they can achieve similar results to Botox and can enhance and prolong the results."

I'm no stranger to Botox injections, which I began having in my mid-40s to relax frown lines, but who wouldn't prefer to save money on costly injectables in favour of an at-home solution?

So which skincare products go the extra mile? "A lot of the new post-procedure creams such as Allies of Skin Molecular Barrier Recovery Cream, aka 'bandage balm', are ceramide-rich and will work well to repair a compromised skin barrier and can be soothing after laser or any heat-inducing skin procedure such as radiofrequency," aesthetic practitioner Dr Sophie Shotter says. But she adds, "They won't work in terms of extending the length of your Botox."

Newby Hands, beauty director for Net-a-Porter, agrees, "While I haven't tried anything over the past 20 years that measures up to Botox, a good hyaluronic acid serum and a retinol-based night cream do mean I can go a bit longer between baby Botox top-ups."

She explains: "Dehydrated skin is flatter, less plump and will show up more fine lines. I love Dr Barbara Sturm Hyaluronic Serum (£85, net-a-porter.com) and Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair (£60, net-a-porter.com). And I've learnt to use the bit that's left on my fingertips to pat on the frown lines and around the mouth." Equally, using a retinoid at night (pick a product with retinol or retinaldehyde, a cousin of retinol) will help your skin repair itself and create new collagen. "Retinol is a science-backed game changer when it comes to proven results on lines and wrinkles," says Hands, who is a fan of Medik8 Crystal Retinal 10 (£79, lookfantastic.com). Surgeon Dr Ashwin Soni and Dr Shotter, meanwhile, both rate Skinbetter Science's AlphaRet Overnight Cream (£112, store.skinbetter.com).

What about the so-called "fauxtox" creams that claim to reduce muscle movement in the skin? Alice Hart-Davis, editor of *The Tweakments Guide*, says, "These products contain a blend of peptides that affect muscle movement. New Revox Line Relaxer looks promising. It's not cheap (£147, revisionskincare.co.uk), but the studies claim a 97 per cent reduction in horizontal and vertical expression lines and under-eye lines – so it may be worth a try."

Although, Hart-Davis clarifies, no cream is going to reach the muscle layer like toxin injections do, it can have a superficial result on smoothing lines, particularly around the eyes.

Meder Beauty's Myo-Fix Concentrate (£86, mederbeauty.com) was originally formulated for pregnant or breast-feeding women who couldn't get their regular Botox injections. If you read the reviews, fans say it extends their Botox appointments by about two months.

Personally I've seen an improvement in wrinkle reduction, hydration and overall radiance to my 50-plus skin with Augustinus Bader's The Essence, £21, and The Cream, £69 (augustinusbader.com). Admittedly, using the two will set you back a fair amount, but since using them I've reduced my Botox injections to twice a year rather than three, and stopped having it around my eyes.

Whether a cream can make your Botox last longer depends on multiple factors, from how much sun exposure you get, to how diligent you are with application, but one thing is for certain, skincare science has come a long way since Ponds cold cream. Here are my five favourites for younger-looking skin.

5 PRODUCTS FOR YOUNGER-LOOKING SKIN



Advanced Night Repair Serum, £60, Estée Lauder

Every beauty editor has a bottle. This bestselling hyaluronic acid and peptide serum helps repair damaged skin.

(net-a-porter.com)



Myo-Fix Concentrate, £95, Meder

The most concentrated peptide solution on the market for Botox-like results. Works to smooth expression lines on forehead, crow's feet and barcode lines around the mouth.

(mederbeauty.com)



Crystal Retinal 10, £79, Medik8

Leaders in retinoid products, this retinal is proven to work.

(lookfantastic.com)



Smart Clinical Repair Wrinkle Correcting Serum, £57, Clinique

Great as an everyday serum to soften frown lines and it gives skin a healthy glow.

(lookfantastic.com)



The Cream, from £69, Augustinus Bader

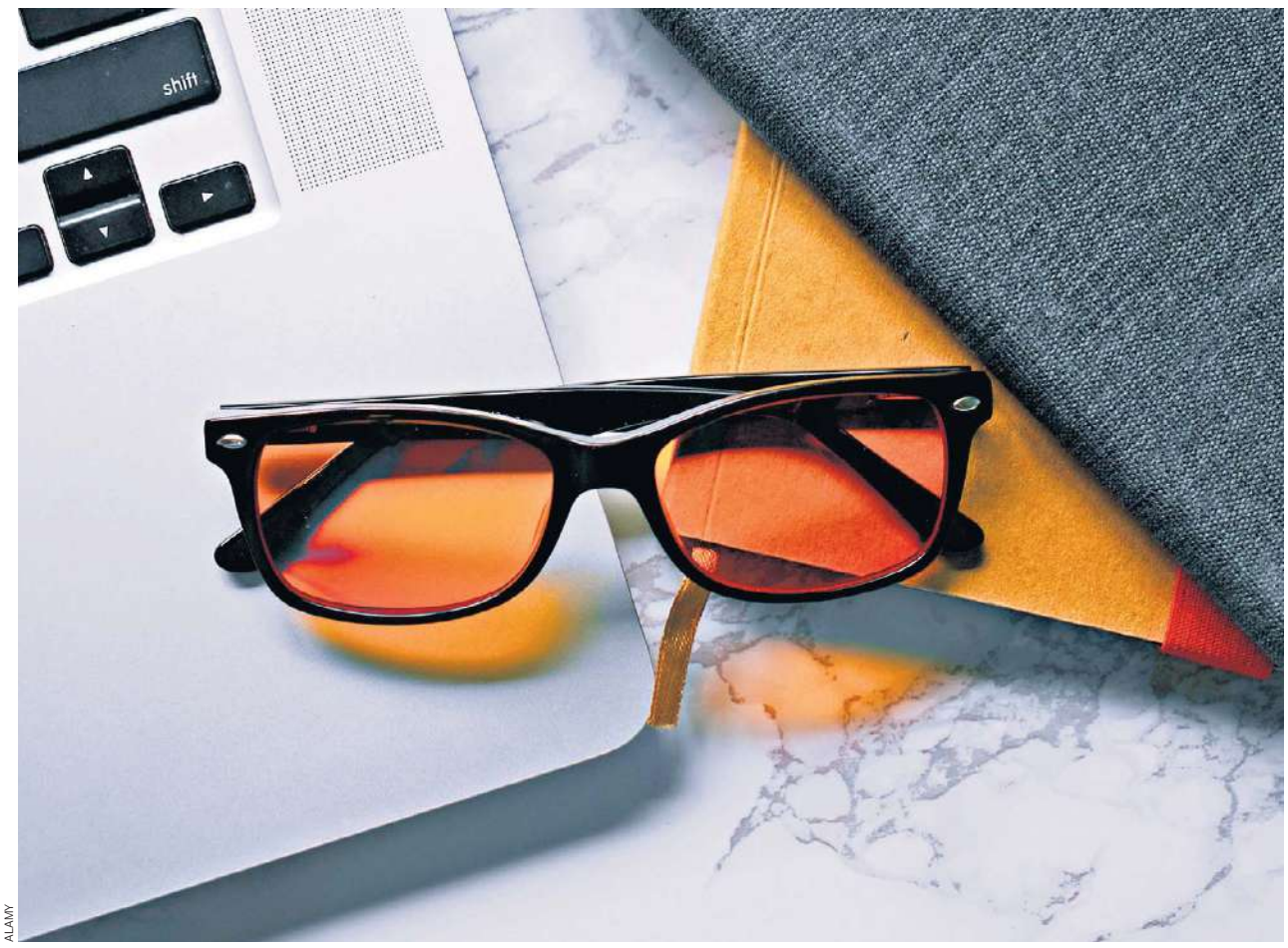
For the famous "Bader glow" favoured by so many celebrities, its patented TFC8 trigger factor complex improves collagen and elasticity for younger-looking skin.

(augustinusbader.com)

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Fad or fact...
Are blue light-blocking glasses a scam or a saviour?

We live in a world in which we are wedded to our screens, but does the artificial blue light emitted from these devices really damage our health? Susannah Taylor asks the experts



ALAMY



There is a strong possibility that you are reading this article on a screen, which means your eyes will currently be bathed in blue light. In the world of wellbeing, this is apparently not a good thing. In Zoom meetings some people are wearing blue light-blocking glasses, and you can now order a blue-light filter with your varifocals at most opticians. The word on the wellbeing street is that these filters, along with screen protectors, will help relieve depression, headaches, prevent eye damage and transform our sleep. But do they really work and frankly, do we need them?

The way in which blue light is being spoken about, you would think it was created by the smartphone. But blue light is all around us naturally – it helps us to function as human beings, and its greatest source is the sun. Blue light makes the sky blue. It has short, energetic wavelengths and, despite recently getting a bad rap, it is naturally good for us. It helps to set our circadian rhythms, keeps our body clock in check and keeps us alert, which is why experts say it's good to get outside during the day when it's at its strongest.

However, there is another type of blue light – artificial blue light, from our screens and devices. This is the one people say we are losing sleep over. Whereas once upon a time our nights were shrouded in darkness with perhaps a candle to take us up to bed, today our after-dark hours are illuminated as we swipe and scroll on screens before bed and under the covers. You may even reach for the comforting glow of the iPad in the middle of the night.

Wellbeing practitioners are saying that this is knocking our bodies' natural biological clocks out of whack, telling us to be awake when we should be drifting off to the land of nod.

Yet while this does appear to make sense in theory, there actually doesn't seem to be enough evidence yet to prove that blue light is to blame. Prof Russell Foster of Oxford University, one of the world's leading experts in circadian neuroscience, has been studying this very topic, and he remains unconvinced. "The evidence that our screens have an effect on the human body clock is negligible to minimal," he says.

'The evidence that our screens have an effect on the human body clock is negligible to minimal'

He tells me about the most detailed study he has found to date, cited in his recent book *Life Time*, which was carried out at Harvard University. Scientists took a Kindle, turned it up to its brightest intensity, and tested this on a group of people from 6-10pm over five days. Foster says that after this period it delayed sleep by 10 minutes. "While this is statistically significant – just," he says, "a delay of 10 minutes is almost meaningless." Although there are other studies by Harvard that show blue light can suppress the hormone melatonin, Foster also says that, contrary to public opinion, melatonin is not the "sleep hormone" people believe it to be. "Melatonin is a mild modulator of sleep," he says. "The best studies showed that melatonin before bed has barely any effects at all."

The reason our screens may not be shifting our body clock, Foster explains, is that the level of blue light exposure from screens is just not strong enough. For example, the light from an iPhone or Kindle is 10-30 lux (that is, lumens per sq m). The sun emits a whopping 80,000-100,000 lux. So it's not the blue light, therefore, that's preventing us from getting shut-eye, it's the emails, the Reels, the gaming, the TikTok? "Exactly," he says. "Devices should not be used for at least 30 minutes before bedtime – not because of the light but because of the alerting activity the content creates in the brain."

But how bad are our screens for actual eye health? I spoke to Prof Glen Jeffery, professor of neuroscience at UCL's Institute of Opthalmology, who has been doing a great deal of (as yet unpublished) work recently on the impact of blue light on our eyes. "There are particular types of blue light," he says, "present in expensive car lights, overhead motorway lights and some state-of-the-art TVs, that can be particularly damaging to eyes."

He explains, "You have more mitochondria in your retina than any part of the human body. These are like batteries, providing energy to the cell, but they absorb blue light which can cause them to shut down." Jeffery's colleagues at UCL have been conducting studies on growing cells under blue light and they can confirm that cells aren't happy there. "They don't tend to divide well and some of them die easily," he says. He goes on to say that our screens and phones don't emit these dangerous levels of intense blue light. However, this is not to say that low levels of blue light from our screens don't have a cumulative effect on eye health over time – these devices haven't been around long enough to enable long-term studies.

And what about the oscillation of light from our smartphones that some say causes headaches and eye strain? Research published in the National Library of Medicine in 2017 shows that blue light lenses can help to block this. However that is all dependant on whether your blue light glasses actually contain the filter they claim they do. Jeffery and his team have been testing lenses with a spectrometer to measure the light coming out the other side and while some did block the blue light, many, he warns, did absolutely nothing and contained no filter whatsoever. It is therefore important if you are going to get a pair that you choose a brand, such as Ocushield, that is FDA- and MHRA-approved and third-party tested.

Jeffery does tell me, though, that within our retina we have a natural filter to blue light, a macular pigment in the form of a yellow spot. "This filter varies enormously from person to person, but its level of protection depends on whether you eat enough vegetables," he says. "You can help reduce the probability of developing age-related macular degeneration by eating a more plant-based diet."

So should I ditch the blue light glasses and spend the money on more trips to the grocery store? "100 per cent," he says.

Verdict: Fad

*@susannahtaylor_*

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My daughter resents the sibling age gap

Angela Epstein looks at the particular challenges faced by children when their parents wait longer than usual between offspring

The question, fired by my daughter Sophie as we dawdled over cheese toasties in a local café one sunny lunchtime, was as devastating as it had been unexpected.

The two of us had been chatting about the age gap between Sophie, now 18, and her siblings, Sam, 29, Max, 27, and Aaron, 24. Or rather, *I* had, prattling on in the full flow of rose-tinted reminiscence, as I explained to Sophie the unadulterated joy of having "one more baby", six years after my last.

With such a large gap, and the other three at school, I told her, she was "all mine". Deliciously so. No clingy toddler hanging from my leg, agitating for my attention.

"I just loved having you all to myself," I relayed, still mushy at the memory.

But then, from Sophie, the killer broadside. Lobbed without malice, but sharp enough, nevertheless, to spear the strongest heart. "That all sounds lovely for you," she began slowly. "But did you ever think what such a big age gap might mean for me?"

For a moment, I was dumbfounded as Sophie expanded her point. Had I, for example, ever considered that she might be lonely when the others had left home (two of our sons live in London, 200 miles away from our Manchester home; another in Jerusalem, significantly further).

Had I foreseen the times when she would be too young to go on holiday with friends and so be yoked into a journeying trio with Mum and Dad?

In summary, had I considered the situation from the other side of the lens when planning so-called baby-spacing?

Before I go on, I must stress that Sophie is a warm, loving young woman; a deep thinker with a frightening sense of justice and a lively mind that drinks information and processes it thoughtfully. She's also profoundly affectionate; demonstratively so. This was no attempt to wound. She was just being honest – something I've always encouraged her to be. Even worse, she was right. I hadn't given a cat's whisker for how it might be for her. Instead, she had been my prize: a reward for years of raising three boisterous boys in swift succession.

There was further irony, too. I knew – know – what it's like to be part of an age-gap family. The youngest by six years to my sister, Suzy, and by 11 to my brother, Howard, I'd experienced the silence and solitude when my siblings first drifted away to be with friends and then left home. But as an adult, I hadn't given my child's position a thought.

Not that I'm alone. Despite years of sleepless nights and fatigue-knuckling days, of renewed independence and more financial stability, many women chuck a wrecking ball through it all and indulge in baby-spacing, ignoring the potential cost to the child.

"While the average age gap between siblings in the UK is currently three years and eight months, some women may have a longer gap between their children, either by choice or by circumstance," says Professor John Sharry, psychotherapist, clinical director and co-founder of on-demand mental-health platform SilverCloud Health.

"Between the night feeds, constant supervision and inquisitive nature of a toddler, the first two years of parenthood can be exhausting. By planning a gap between children, parents have a chance to catch up on the many sleepless nights and may therefore begin their next parenting journey more refreshed and energised."

For some, the reasons for the big gap are unequivocal. John Travolta's children, Ella Bleu, 22, and Benjamin, 11, have a 10-year age gap. The movie star and his late wife, Kelly Preston, tragically lost their 16-year-old son Jett after he suffered a seizure. One year later, Kelly – then 47 years old – announced she was pregnant with her third baby.

According to sources close to the couple, they made a "concerted effort" to have another baby to help them deal, in part, with their grief. In 2000, after years of trying unsuccessfully to conceive, Canadian singer Celine Dion underwent fertility treatment that gave her a son, René-Charles, in 2001. Understandably, she and her late husband, René Angélil, wanted to extend their family. But it took six further rounds of IVF before the superstar became pregnant with triplets – one of whom sadly miscarried – delivering twins Eddy and Nelson in 2010.

'You can't mitigate the guilt of having a gap. But you can understand your children's feelings'

Afterwards, Dion said: "I told René that I couldn't stop. I had to try and try and try all the way."

And, of course, in the case of some couples, there is no forward planning. Who can forget the moment when Tiggerish prime minister Tony Blair announced wife Cherie was pregnant with their fourth child, more than a decade after the birth of their daughter Kathryn (although, truthfully, many of us were diverted by the revelation that the baby was conceived while the couple were staying with the late Queen at Balmoral, because Cherie had left her "contraceptive equipment" at home).

In principle, the idea of an age-gap baby brings benefits to the child, too, adds Professor Sharry.

"After a large age gap, there tends to be less sibling rivalry, likely because the children are at a different stage of life, with different friends, interests and goals.

Fauntee Bon, a London-based media and publishing entrepreneur, had a son eight years after her three daughters. She told me: "My girls are so handy in taking care of him. They pamper him, and read for and with him. My boy is maturing so quickly because of his sisters' influence."

In my own case, as I told Sophie, her conception was the result of unexpected broodiness. Yet, like Victoria Beckham, who had daughter Harper after a six-year gap, there was also a hankering for a daughter, too.

That's not to say that it wasn't a seismic shock when Sophie arrived. Sure, the love for this pink, milky baby, with her tufty, sand-coloured hair and almond-shaped eyes, was earth shattering. But so, too, was the impact on my life.

Suddenly, spontaneous outings with the family became an exercise in planning, packing and timing. Forget just chucking a football in the car. Now, it was nappies, bottles, changes of clothes. Oh, and, yes, absolute silence when Sophie, a terrible sleeper, finally – finally – dozed off on the journey.

Meanwhile, friends of a similar age – also in their late 30s and having finished having babies – were rediscovering their freedom. Little wonder I focused on the impact this baby-gap child was having on me and not the other way round.

Research has even gone so far as to suggest an age gap is profoundly detrimental to a child. Notably, a 2017 study by Maastricht University, which revealed that a larger birth gap in a two-child household leads to more disorganised behaviour, neuroticism and introversion in the younger child.

But as Sophie got older and her brothers became even more independent, I convinced myself that she revelled in the benefits of being the youngest by a significant stretch; even feeling guilty about the attention I could give her compared with my sons.

And there are tangible advantages: she has the run of all the bedrooms vacated by her brothers. As well as the greater solvency of her parents now we are more established in our careers (the three of us went to Florida after the others had left home, having never been able to run to it as a six-some). A further advantage, above all, is just being all hers on a day-to-day basis.

But reflecting on a recent trip home by two of her older brothers, watching the silly behaviour, the banter and her chats with their respective partners, who also treat Sophie like a little sister, I can see how much she has missed out.

So how – I ask through splayed fingers – does she feel?

"People often ask me what it's like to have three older brothers," says Sophie. "But I never really think of myself as the only girl. I think of myself as very much being the youngest. I know I'm lucky. I have fantastic parents and a warm, supportive family. I realise so many children don't have that."

Here, she breaks off, before adding carefully: "But I think having children closer together is a big help – at least for the child. I hate coming home after school with no siblings there who might understand more the things I might want to talk about, like exams. I'd still love to go on family holidays like friends do who have younger siblings. But my older brothers are, understandably, doing their own thing. Above all, I just miss the activity in the house."

Dr Sheila Redfern, consultant child and adolescent clinical psychologist at the Anna Freud Centre in London, is also an age-gap parent. Mother of 20-year-old twins and a 13-year-old son, she recognises the challenges, but says the importance is to acknowledge and rise to them.

"Sure, there are lots of issues, not least being the oldest mum at the school gate," says Redfern, who is also author of *Reflective Parenting*. "But there are more issues for the child than the parent – such as having someone around to play with or be with. I've had to make sure to fill the gap with friends, see them almost as an extended family.

"Remember, an age-gap child is not an only child – children in that situation may be more used to their parents' company. The most important thing is that you can't mitigate the guilt of having a gap. What you can do is to sit with your child, understand their feelings, rather than simply point out the advantages."

Indeed, as Sophie now plans to go off on a gap year, I vow to listen to her even more. After all, once she goes, the only sound in the house will be the silence she has known so well.



Tricky questions: Angela Epstein with her daughter, Sophie, very much a gap child

Epstein with Sophie as a toddler...

... and as a schoolgirl...

... and as a teenager, below right









Gap kids: Angela Epstein with her husband Martin and entire brood, including 'honest' daughter Sophie

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WELCOME TO ANOTHER GREAT PUZZLING SUNDAY

Puzzles

The Sunday Telegraph

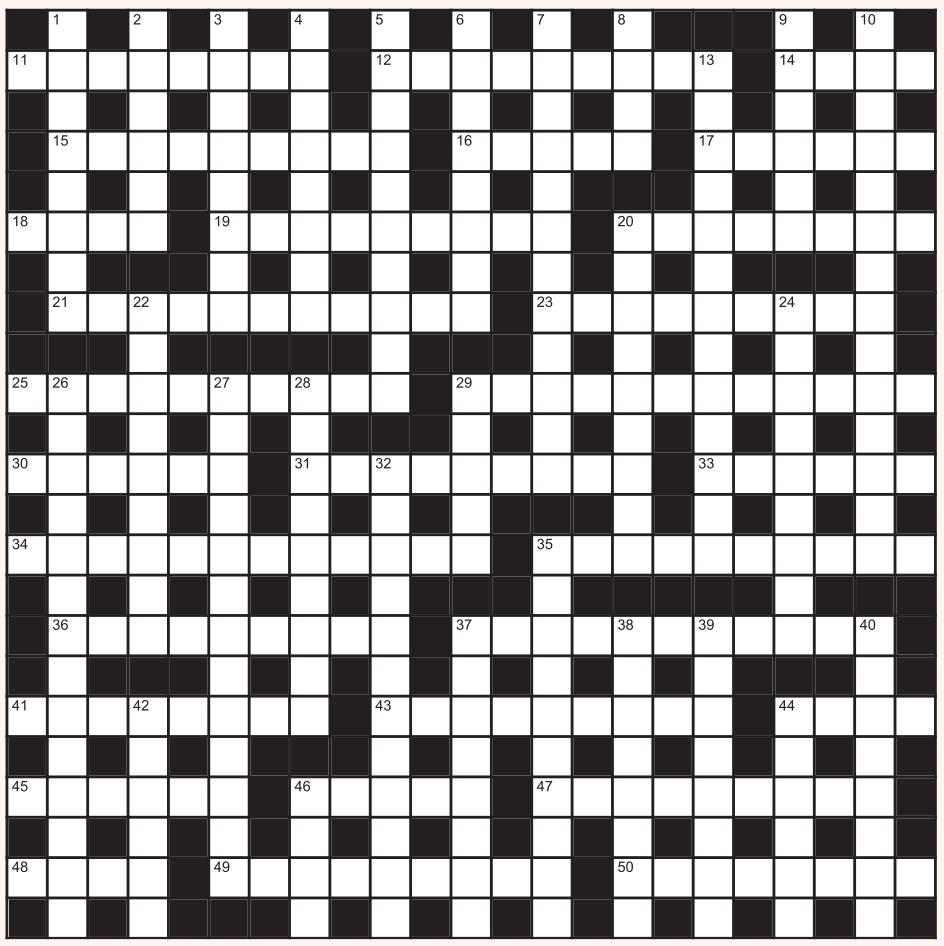
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

11 Michael –, character played by Al Pacino in *The Godfather* (8)
12 In Greek mythology, the daughter of Cepheus and Cassiopeia (9)
14 Sword similar to the foil but with a larger guard (4)
15 2005 novel by Bret Easton Ellis (5,4)
16 Mournful poem, often about a deceased person (5)
17 Roderick –, detective created by Ngaio Marsh (6)
18 – Savage, Paul O'Grady's drag queen persona (4)
19 Rudolph –, Italian-born silent film actor who appeared in *The Sheik* (9)
20 Leather flaps used to prevent a horse from seeing sideways or backwards (8)
21 Bass instrument of the oboe family with a pitch between that of the cor anglais and the bassoon (11)
23 City in Bihar, north-east India, associated with the silk industry (9)
25 Character from the *X-Men* series of comics who is Wolverine's enemy (10)
29 Comedian and actor who played Nicola Murray in BBC television comedy series *The Thick of It* (7,5)
30 – Sparrow, nickname of French chanteuse Edith Piaf (6)
31 Norwegian politician who was elected as the first secretary-general of the United Nations in 1946 (6,3)
33 Robert –, author of the historical novel *I, Claudius* (6)
34 1976 comedy-western film starring Jeff Bridges and Sam Waterston (6,6)
35 *The* –, 2008 family film based on a Dick King-Smith novel (5,5)
36 *The Grass* –, debut novel by Doris Lessing (2,7)
37 Resort region of the Spanish Mediterranean coast (5,6)
41 Lesley –, English actor who played the couturier's sister in the 2018 film *Phantom Thread* (8)
43 Team captain on current events panel show *Have I Got News for You* (3,6)
44 Michael –, leader of the Labour Party from 1980-1983 (4)
45 Theodor W. –, philosopher whose writings include *Negative Dialectics* and *Prisms* (6)
46 – Kovalev, Russian professional dancer who formerly appeared on *Strictly Come Dancing* (5)
47 American movie and music star who played the title role in 1951 film *Whirlwind* (4,5)
48 City in the Czech Republic which is the historical capital of Moravia (4)
49 Site in Suffolk where a Saxon ship burial was unearthed in 1939 (6,3)
50 1953 novel by Nevil Shute (2,3,3)

Down

1 District in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, London, where Henry VIII founded a naval dockyard in 1512 (8)
2 Mary –, American distance runner whose maiden name was Decker (6)
3 Former Leeds United and England football manager (3,5)
4 A unit of processing speed equal to one million floating-point operations per second (8)
5 Charles Rennie –, Scottish architect, designer and artist who died in 1928 (10)
6 A substance such as glue or gum (8)
7 Biblical structure that was the subject of paintings by 16th-century artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder (5,2,5)
8 Peter –, 17th-century artist whose works include *Girl with a Parrot (4)*
9 Jolanda –, 2002 European Championships 800m gold medallist (6)
10 Ice hockey team that won the 1994 Stanley Cup (3,4,7)
13 Christmas carol formerly known by the name *Luther's Cradle Hymn* (4,2,1,6)
20 Cate –, Best Actress in a Leading Role Oscar winner for *Blue Jasmine* (9)
22 1st-century AD British chieftain who led an unsuccessful resistance against the Romans (9)
24 Town in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, on the River Bann (9)
26 President of Pakistan from 2008-2013 (4,3,7)
27 1948 Irwin Shaw novel set during the Second World War (3,5,5)
28 Mineral similar to chlorite named after a region of Belgium (9)
29 City in western Ukraine, located on the River Ustya (5)
32 1972 biopic starring Simon Ward in the title role (5,7)
35 George –, president of the United States from 1789-1797 (10)
37 Province of Ireland whose counties include Mayo (8)
38 – *City*, 1980 Burt Lancaster film directed by Louis Malle (8)
39 Lynda –, actor and dramatist who created the *Prime Suspect* television drama series (2,6)
40 People assisting a priest in a religious service or procession (8)
42 Edward –, British admiral nicknamed "Old Grog" who died in 1757 (6)
44 – *Ted*, sitcom starring Dermot Morgan in the title role (6)
46 Brad –, actor who plays the assassin Ladybug in the 2022 film *Bullet Train* (4)



SUDOKU

In this puzzle, each 3x3 box, each column and each row must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.
The gentle solution can be found on the last page of puzzles. The solution to the regular sudoku will be published on Monday. The tough solution can be found next Sunday.
For today's tough sudoku solution, please call 0905 757 0138. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

GENTLE

		7				5		
			9				1	
1	2				5			3
3				5	6		9	
7			3		9			1
	9		1	2				
4			8				7	2
	1				3			
		8				1		

REGULAR 5986

	2				3		6	
4								3
9						5		
7		4			9	3		
6				3			5	8
		5	7			4		
		2						1
								7
	6		4				2	

TOUGH 5986

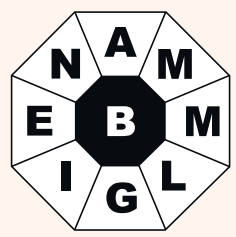
7		2			9	3		6
1						2	4	
			2					
	7			6	1			3
		4				9		
8			4	7			2	
					4			
	3	1						5
9		7	6			1		4

Notes

POLYWORD

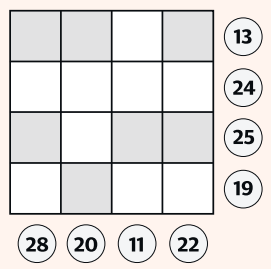
Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words and plurals are disallowed. You can also make one word using all the nine available letters. *Solution next Sunday.*

HOW DID YOU RATE?
15 words – *Average*
20 words – *Good*
25 words – *Very good*
30 words – *Excellent*



EVENS

Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and only even numbers may be placed in grey squares.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



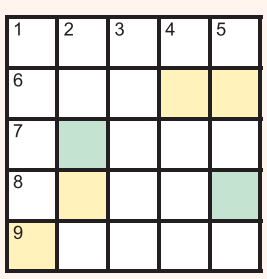
PLUSWORD

NO 119

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing.
Solution next Sunday.

Across
1 Change equivalencies
6 Muse of love poetry
7 *The Simpsons* character
8 Confess
9 Full of ___, in high spirits

Down
1 Addiction treatment
2 Wear away
3 ___ *Mia*, ABBA song
4 Dined at home
5 Fortified wines



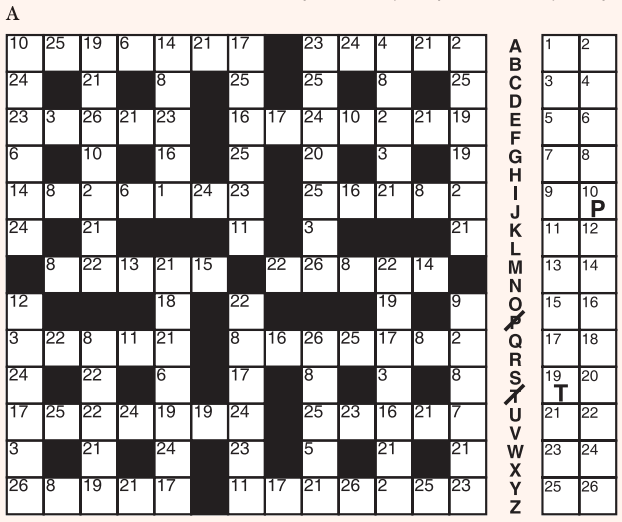
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Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code

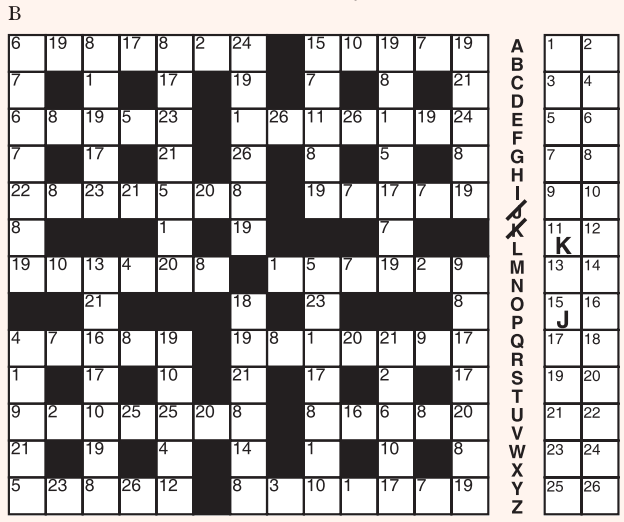
CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. The smaller grid is the key and you will see that some letters are solved.
When you have completed your first word or phrase, you will have the clues to more letters. *Solutions next Sunday.*

A



B



For today's Codewords solutions call 0905 757 0133 for Codeword A, and 0905 757 0135 for Codeword B. For up to five extra letter clues call 0905 757 0132 for Codeword A, and 0905 757 0134 for Codeword B. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

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Puzzles

LETTER LOGIC

There are no clues to this word puzzle other than the number of squares in the grid and the length of the words or phrases. Can you place all the words in the grid? *Solution on last page of puzzles.*

4 LETTERS
CAPO
FAKE

5 LETTERS
ABODE
ALIEN
CAPER
CHESS
CRAZE
DEBUT
DECOR
EASEL
EQUAL
GENUS
JURAT
LLANO
PERIL
PULSE
PUT-ON
RANGE
RATTY
SEALS
SHELL
SNOUT
SUAVE
SWARM
TALKS
TASER

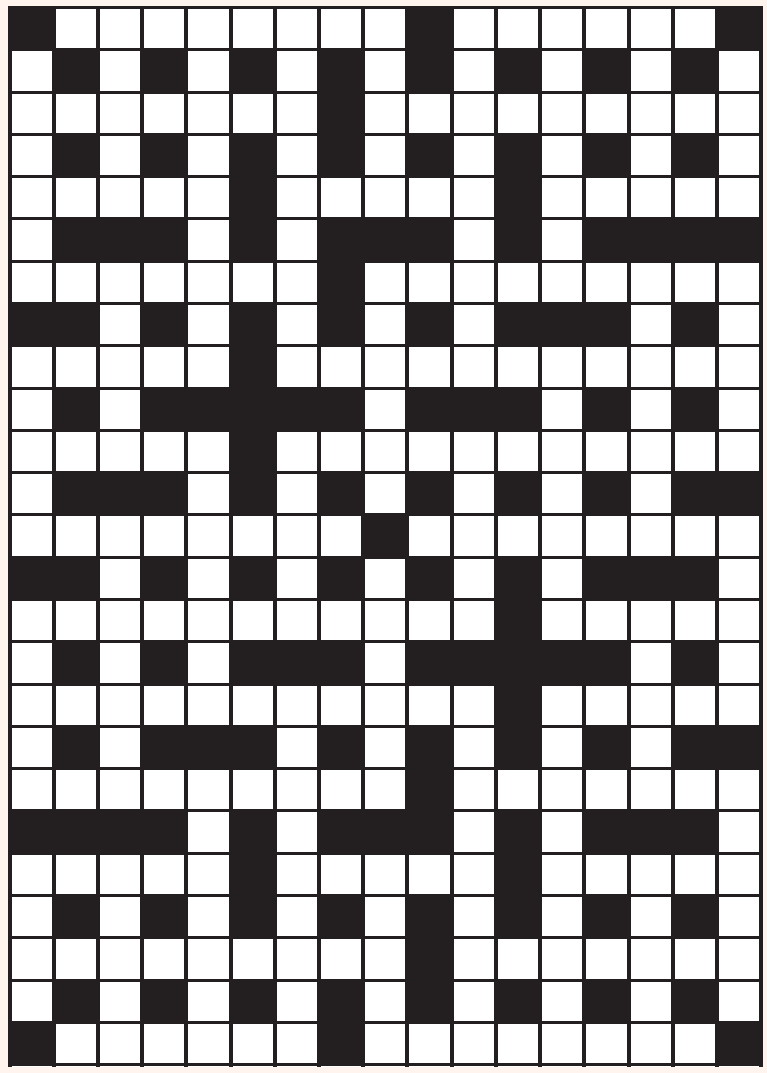
6 LETTERS
ALSACE
BEWARE
CASHEW
FOILED
STORKS
TERROR

7 LETTERS
CURSORY
DIABOLO
DRABBLE
ENCLOSE
POSTAGE
RINGLET
SARDANA
SCARPER
SELFISH
TWINSET

8 LETTERS
CATALYST
ETERNITY
FARMYARD
MEDICINE

9 LETTERS
AFTERSHOW
BARRACUDA
CONSTRAIN
CORDYLINE
FRIAR'S CAP
MESMERISE
PARTRIDGE
PER CAPITA
STANDPIPE
TREE SNAKE

11 LETTERS
GREASY SPOON
JEALOUSNESS
RUBBER STAMP
WHITE SPIRIT



SUDOKU X

Fill in the rows, columns and boxes and also the grey X with the numbers 1 to 9 without the same number appearing twice in any row, column or box. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*

1			5		8			
						7		
5			7		6			8
4		2		1				
	3		8		7		4	
				4		8		6
6			2		4			9
		1						
		9	1		3			7

JIGSAW SUDOKU

Fill in the rows, columns and boxes with the numbers 1 to 9 without the same number appearing twice in any row, column or box. However, with Jigsaw Sudoku, the boxes are rather odd shapes. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*

	6	9					7	
				7	6			2
7	2	4				9		
			6		8			
9	7							6
			9		1			
		2				6	4	8
2			8	5				
	1					3	5	

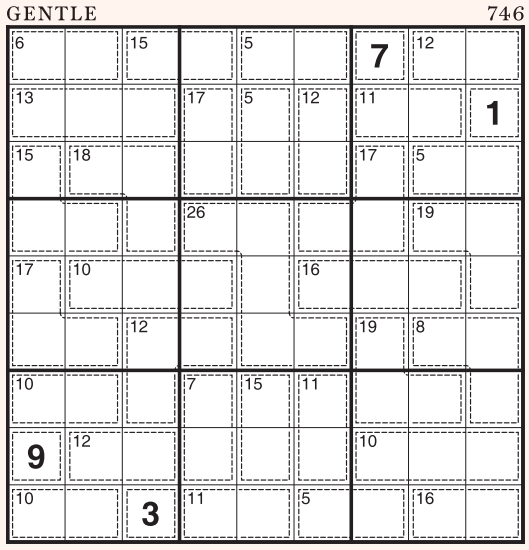
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KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers in that cage. *Solution next Sunday.*

GENTLE 746



For today's Killer Sudoku solution call 0905 757 0139. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

PATHFINDER

Beginning with the H in the upper left-hand corner, follow a continuous path to find a list of occupations. The trail passes through each and every letter once, and may twist up, down or sideways, but never diagonally. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*

H	T	O	R	I	R	O	C	E	R	A	R	C	H	I
I	S	D	N	A	G	I	F	E	R	A	T	N	T	T
I	C	O	C	T	N	G	E	R	I	N	N	A	C	E
A	I	C	E	O	E	H	T	C	F	T	U	N	N	Y
N	R	T	L	R	E	B	T	H	E	N	O	C	C	A
C	E	L	E	G	R	A	S	E	D	L	A	N	B	L
O	S	L	T	S	I	R	I	M	R	I	I	E	F	A
U	N	O	F	F	N	R	R	W	A	B	R	G	I	C
B	E	R	U	E	A	I	E	H	S	R	A	U	L	K
O	S	N	A	U	I	S	T	M	I	D	R	A	T	S
T	R	U	H	R	P	R	E	O	F	P	C	A	S	M
A	S	T	C	D	A	N	G	N	T	U	I	N	I	I
N	I	A	N	R	U	C	F	A	S	B	L	C	T	T
S	I	L	I	S	O	E	R	R	I	P	O	H	N	H
T	T	R	A	T	J	R	E	M	D	O	R	I	E	D

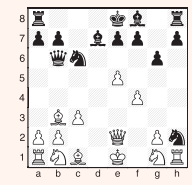
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CHESS

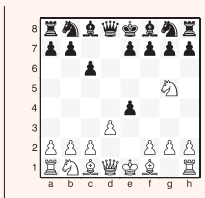
MALCOLM PEIN

A couple of opening oddities from the recent Chessable British Championships. The move **4...g6** is a popular choice, but John Emms's simple reply makes it look bad. If 5...d5 6.e5 Nd7 7.Bb5 or just 6.Nd2 are nice for White. Perhaps Black must simply avoid 2...d6.

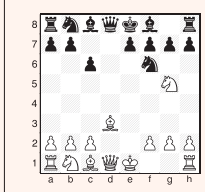
J. Emms – D. Gormally
British Championships
Sicilian c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 g6?! 5.dxc5 dxc5 6.e5 c4 (After 6...Nd5 7.Be4 e6 8.c4 is strong or if 7...Nb6 8.Qe2 and 8.Qxd8+ are both good) **7.Qa4+ Bd7 8.Qxc4 Ng4 9.f4 Nc6** (If 9...Qb6 10.Qd4) **10.Bc2 Qb6 11.Qe2 Nxh2** (Not 12.Rxh2? Qxg1+ or 12.Be3? Qxb2 but Emms had planned a decisive blow) **12.Bb3! 1–0** Why did Black resign?



T. Villiers – I. Lentzos
British Championships
Caro Kann
1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.d3 dxe4 4.Ng5!? (Hackery, 4.dxe4 Qxd1+ 5.Kxd1 is a line which has been troubling Black recently. White gets a small edge in a symmetrical position after c2–c3 and Kd1–c2, or sometimes Bf1–c4 and Kd1–e2)



4...exd3 (4...Nf6 5.Nxe4 e5 is clearly fine for Black, while Stockfish mysteriously claims that 5...g6 6.Nxf6+ exf6 is somewhat better for Black. White's light bishop is hardly a thing of beauty) **5.Bxd3 Nf6** (5...Nd7 6.Nxh7 Ne5 is fine for Black as is 5...Qc7 6.Nxh7 Nf6 7.Nxf8 Rxh2! 8.Rxh2 Qxh2 9.Ng6! Qh1+ 10.Bf1 fxg6 and if 7.Nxf6+ gxf6 is a souped-up version of a main line, where Black benefits from not having an h-pawn.



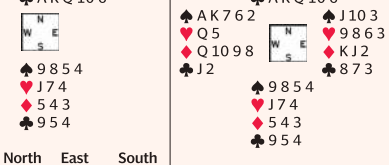
6.Nxf7! Kxf7 (6...Qa5+? 7.Bd2) **7.Bg6+ hxg6 8.Qxd8** (White mopped up without any fuss) **8...e5 9.Nc3 Nbd7 10.0–0 a5 11.Bg5 Rg8 12.Rad1 Be7 13.Qc7 Ne8 14.Rxd7 Nxc7 15.Rxe7+ 1–0**

Answer: The threat is Be3 followed by Rxh2 and if 12...Ng4 13.e6! wins.

BRIDGE

TOM TOWNSEND

Dealer South
Vulnerability None



West	North	East	South
			pass
1♠	dble(1)	2♠	pass
pass	dble(1)	pass	2NT(2)
pass	3♠(3)	pass	4♣(4)
pass	5♣	pass	pass
pass			

(1) Take-out doubles
(2) Scrambling, take-out
(3) Bid one of your suits
(4) Will this do?

Contract 5♣
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♠A

From the Rosenblum Cup semi-finals in Wroclaw, a case of "I am weak but thou art strong". Had partner known exactly how weak you were, he might have let you out in a part-score. As it is, you have to play a ridiculous 5♣.

West leads the ♠A and switches to the ♣2. How do you play from there?

Clue: this is an exercise in positive thinking. If you're struggling at first, in disbelief at the contract, try placing the cards where you need them and then plan the play. This was the full layout:

Win the ♣A and duck a diamond. Suppose they win and return the suit. Take the ♦A, drop West's ♣J with the ♣K, and cash ♥AK. This drops West's ♥Q as required. Cross to the ♥J, ruff a spade, cash the ♥10 and discard a diamond. Ruff a diamond and claim.

Guy Mendes de Leon made his contract. The young Dutchman and his partner, Thibo Sprinkhuizen, made a tremendous impression on these championships. Well done if you made it too.

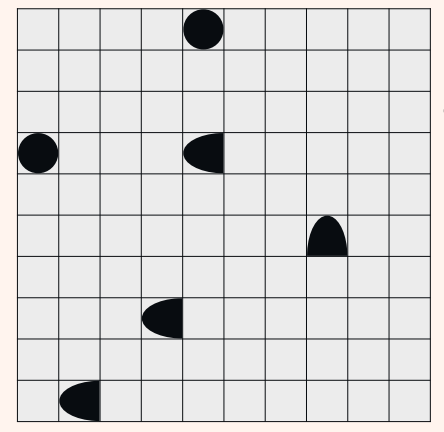
Steve Weinstein (US) ducked a diamond switch, dropped the doubleton ♣J, but then couldn't believe his luck. He drew trump with the ♣9, and finessed the ♥10. One off.

An improbable minor-suit lead beats 5♣. The game that always makes is 3NT. As well as clubs fair and the doubleton heart Queen, this takes the suit blockage in spades.

Final Result 5♣ made, N/S +400
Par Result 3♣ plus two, N/S +150

BATTLESHIPS

Find where the ships listed are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*



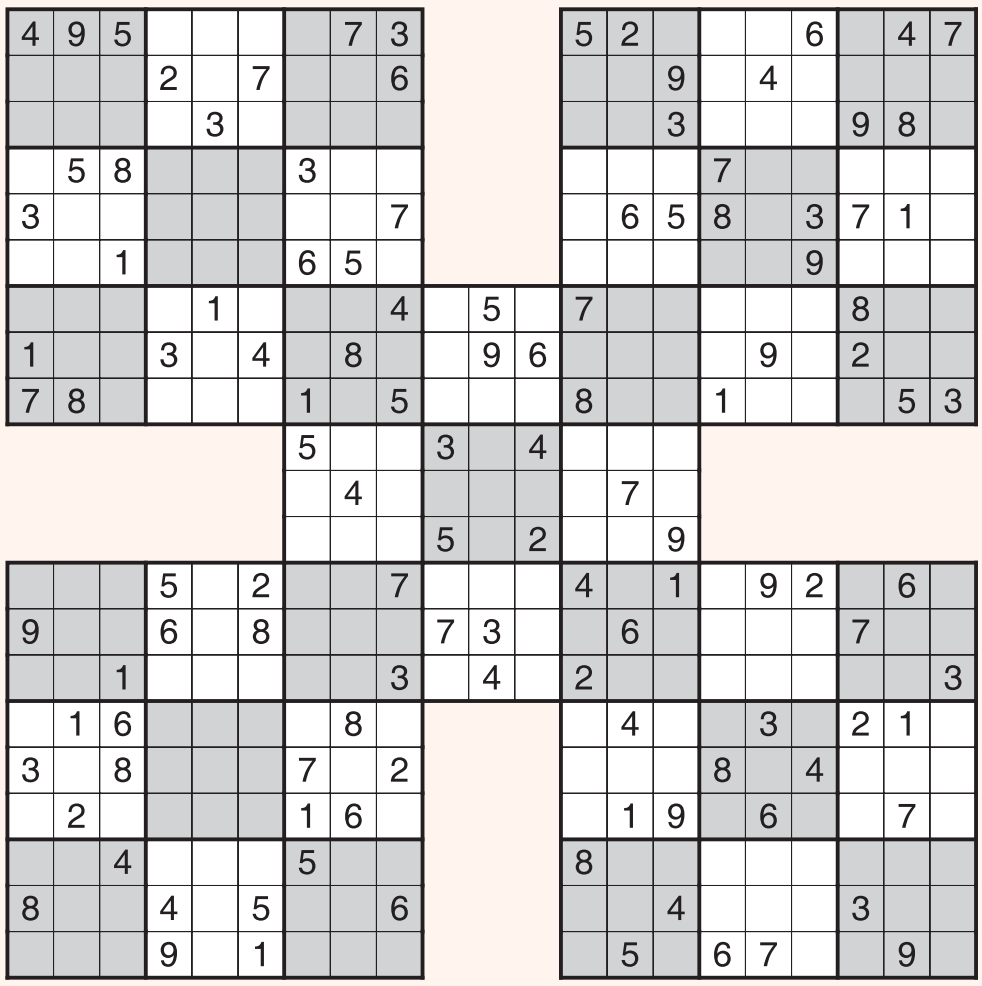
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



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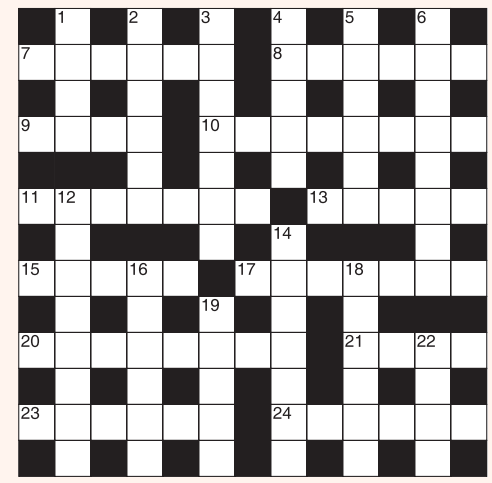
BIG X SUDOKU

The rules for Big X Sudoku change only slightly from the standard sudoku rules. The 9 x 9 sudoku at the centre of the X shares four of its 3 x 3 boxes with those of the outer sudoku. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*



Notes

CROSSGRAM



Each of the clues in this crossword is an anagram.

Across
7 Feed-in (6)
8 An ulna (6)
9 Lobe (4)
10 Ashen CIA (5,3)
11 Hurt ref (7)
13 Lamed (5)
15 Shelf (5)
17 Get land (7)
20 Visit cam (8)
21 Pram (4)
23 Bed tie (6)
24 My ears (6)

Down
1 Reno (4)
2 Gisted (6)
3 Heed cab (7)
4 Sabin (5)
5 At nine (6)
6 Meek NASA (8)
12 Ken could (8)
14 Raw shim (7)
16 Rips it (6)
18 Argent (6)
19 Views (5)
22 Cram (4)

Solution on the last page of puzzles.

CRYPTIC CONNECTIONS

Five cryptic crossword clues must be solved; their answers can be made from the list of letters given underneath. Once all the clues have been solved, some letters will be unused; these can be arranged to give a word or phrase that links the answers to the five clues. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*

1 Brag, small bet bringing in grand? (7)
2 Require half of lead to make pointer (6)
3 Toy instrument (6)
4 Close to American, plump (6)
5 Batting order for cricket, perhaps (6)

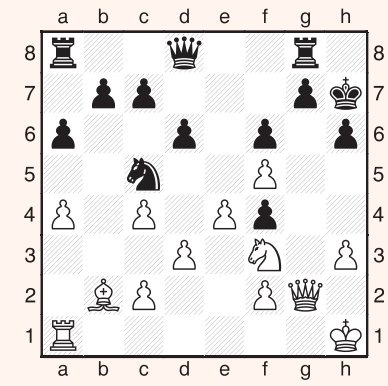
AACCDDDDEEEEEEEFGGIIIKLL
NNNORRSSSTTUW

FIGURE IT OUT

Surprise Delivery
Caleb is trying to catch out his brother, Cletus, with a prank. His brother has an American-style mailbox. The shape of the end of the box is a square with a semicircle on top. The end is 14cm at its widest point and 21cm tall at its highest. The box is 50cm deep. Caleb plans to fill the box with tubes of springy snakes, which will all jump out when the box is opened. The tubes he is looking at buying have a volume of 1,700cm^3 each. Caleb assumes 22/7 is close enough to π and that he can fit the tubes in the mailbox leaving no empty space around them. If these assumptions are correct, how many tubes will Caleb be able to fit into Cletus's mailbox?
Solution on the last page of puzzles.

CHECKMATE

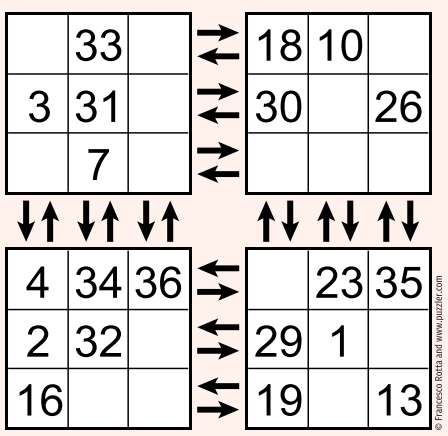
White to play and mate in three moves.



Solution on the last page of puzzles.

ROUND THE BLOCK

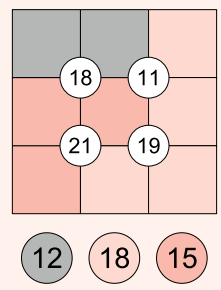
Place the digits 1-36 so they run in number order from block to block. Each consecutive number must be placed in the same row or column of the ADJACENT block, as shown by the arrow. We've inserted a few numbers to show you how it works. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



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SUKO®

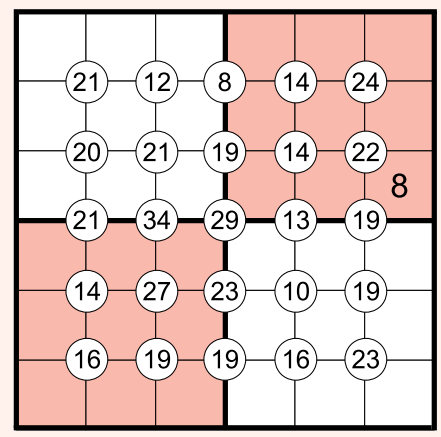
Enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of its four surrounding squares. Each coloured area should add up to the colour totals below. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



12 18 15

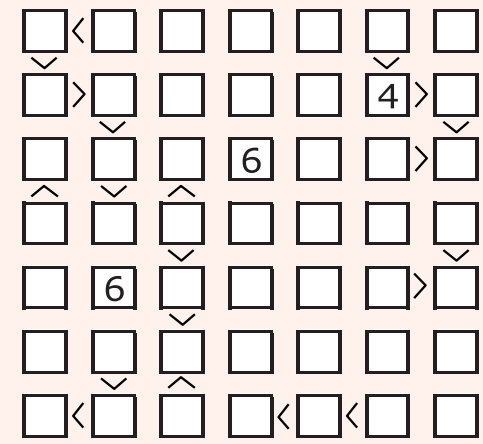
MASTER SUJIKO

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the squares in each of the four quadrants, so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Note that a number may appear twice in the same line (within different quadrants). For instance, a 2 may appear next to a 2, as long as they are in different quadrants. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



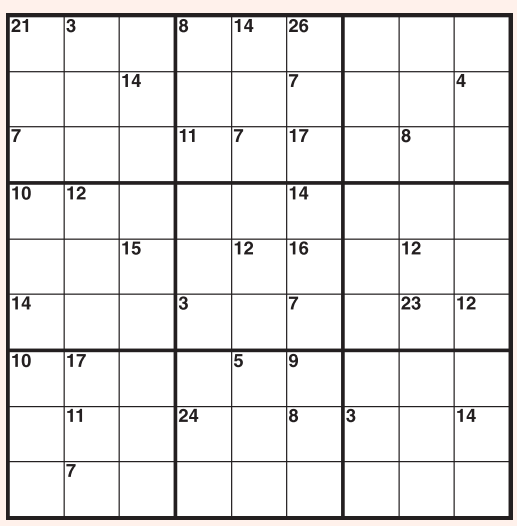
FUTOSHIKI

Insert the numbers 1 to 7 in each row and each column, making sure that no number is repeated. The only symbols to guide you are the "greater than" (>) and "less than" (<) signs. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



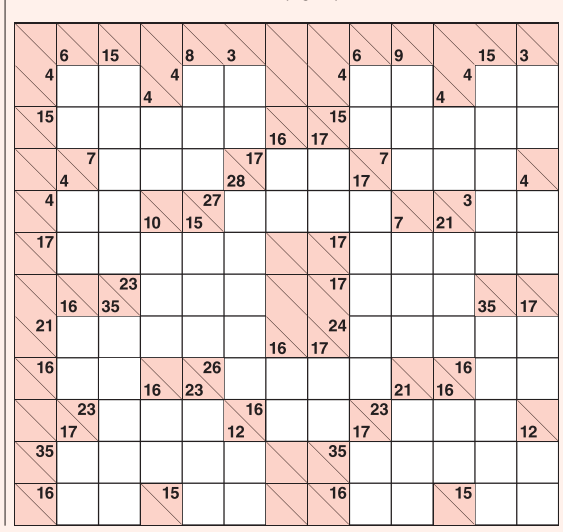
KILLER UNCAGED

This Killer Sudoku puzzle has had its cages removed, but the original rules apply. The sum total of each cage remains in the leftmost cell of the top row of the cage. As in a regular Killer Sudoku, cages do not extend above or to the left of the sum-cell; but may extend to the left, right or both in any rows below the sum-cell. There are no single-cell cages. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



KAKURO

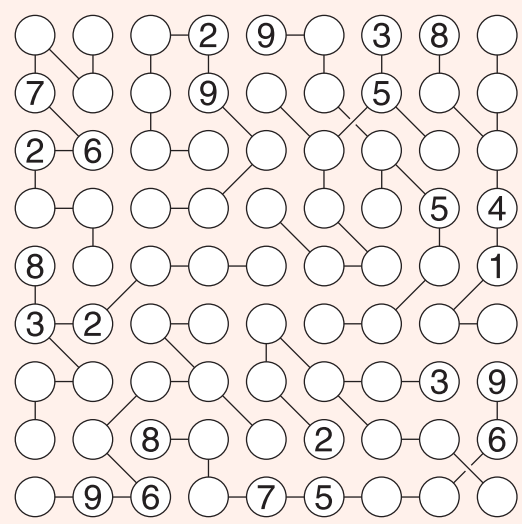
Fill in the grid so that each block adds up to the total in the box above or to the left of it. You can only use the digits 1-9 and you must not use the same digit twice in a block. The same digit may occur more than once in a row or column. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



Notes

CHAIN SUDOKU

Chain Sudoku is similar to classic Sudoku, except that the numbers are grouped in chains instead of boxes. The object is to fill all the empty circles so that the numbers 1-9 appear in each chain as well as in each row and column. *Solution on last page of puzzles.*



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Puzzles

BRAIN TRAINING

MEMORY

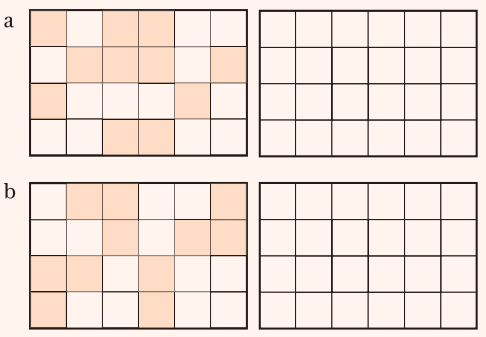
WHAT'S NEW

Cover the bottom row of objects, then study the top row for two minutes. Then cover the top row and show the bottom row. How many are new, and which ones?



GRIDS

Study grid A for five seconds, then cover it up and try to reproduce the pattern in the blank grid to the right. Repeat for grid B.



KIM'S GAME

Study these objects for exactly 90 seconds, then cover them up. How many can you remember in two minutes?



MISSING WORDS

Cover the bottom group of words, then study the top group for two minutes. Then cover the top group and show the bottom group. Which words are missing?

BROOD	HEALER	SLEDGE
BROWN	ISSUE	THERAPIST
CHRISTMAS	KNIGHT	TRASH
DECLINE	LITTER	WASTE
DESERT	REFUSE	WEDDING
FLACK	REJECT	WILDERNESS
FORGO	SHRINK	YOUNG

WEDDING	WASTE	THERAPIST
FLACK	CHRISTMAS	REJECT
TRASH	FORGO	YOUNG
BROWN	SHRINK	BROOD
DECLINE	SLEDGE	REFUSE
ISSUE	DESERT	HEALER

NUMBER ABILITY

SUMTHING

Place the listed numbers into the grid so that all sums are correct, reading left to right and top to bottom.

	×		=			1
+	■	−	■	÷	■	1
	×	7	=			2
=	■	=	■	=	■	3
	+		=			3
1	9	9	4	9	9	

MIND GYM

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. The target time for each row is 30 seconds.

EASY 37	+26	2/3 of this	-16	Reverse the digits
ANSWER	÷7	-18	3/4 of this	+18
MEDIUM 7	Square it	+158	2/3 of this	-10
ANSWER	÷5	+247	÷8	Increase by 75%
HARD 12	Square it	+285	6/13 of this	-43
ANSWER	-87	4/11 of this	+214	Increase by 60%

PICTURE IT

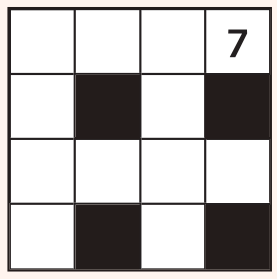
Three siblings are having a sunflower-growing competition. Elio's sunflower is 8cm more than two-thirds as tall as Tyrone's, which is 86cm more than a third of double the height of Marge's sunflower. If the average height of the sunflowers is 156cm, how tall is Elio's?



NUMBER JIG

Which one of the listed numbers won't fit in this mini grid?

2727
7272
7927
9279
9927



WORD ABILITY

ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each of the phrases below to reveal five English language poems.

DRAB COVE EH?

DROPS TALE

IS A DOZY MAN

WHAT TENSE, LAD?

HEY, DOTH FLOAT LAST

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word in each ladder. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order.

1 DOWN / CAST

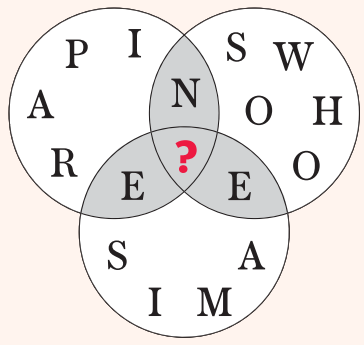
Pie, Rickshaw, Mountain lake, Daybreak, Sew

2 SPIN / REEL

Unsolicited emails, Full extent, Genuine, Fasten, Line in sewing

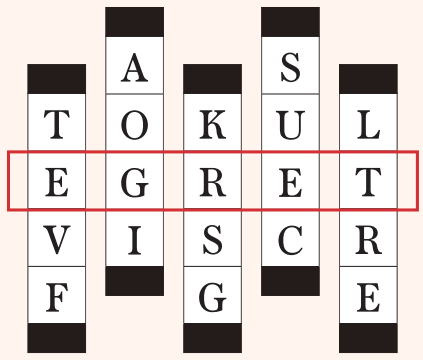
CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words and the letter represented by the question mark?



WORD SLIDE

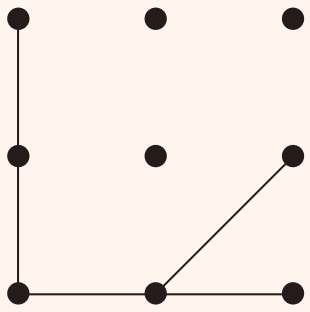
How many regular English words can you spell out using all the sliders? One word is spelled already. Target score: 10



VISUALISATION

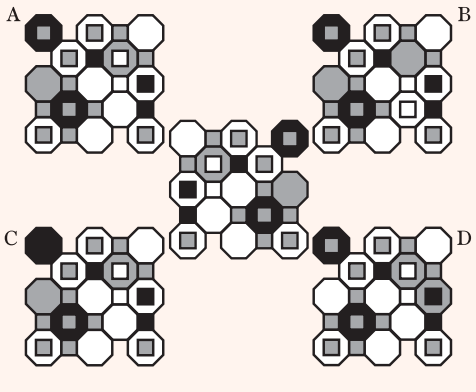
TRIANGLE

Draw **3** straight lines to make **5** triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot to dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Triangles must not contain lines running through them, and every line segment must form part of a triangle.



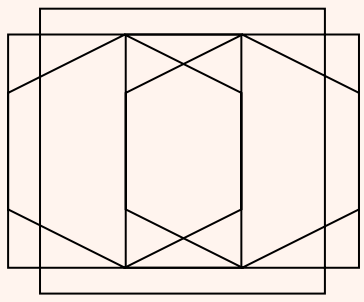
MIRROR IMAGE

Which of the four images below is the mirror image of the one in the middle?



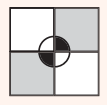
SHAPES

How many triangles are there in the illustration below?

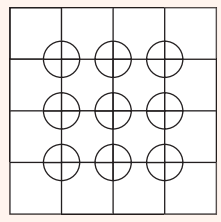


SEKI

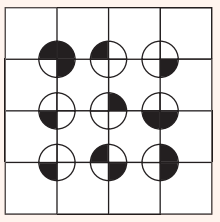
Using the blank grid, rotate some of the circles shown in the start grid and then shade in the corresponding squares (as shown right), so that shaded squares contain only black quarter-circles.



BLANK GRID



START GRID

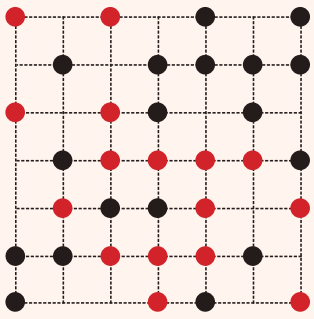


LOGIC

DANGO

Draw lines between the dots to create four shapes in the grid. No shape may touch another and you must use all the dots. When a line reaches a dot, it turns as shown:

● 90° ● 45° or 135°



CELLS

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

	2					4
	2	4				
			2			6
	2				2	
	3	3				4
			8		2	
5						

FILLING TIME ®

Using all six LCD time blocks e.g. 02:58:49, in addition to the 14 panels already shaded black, shade in a further 17 panels in the style of the numbers provided to give you a unique time within a 24-hour day. Not only should the time use 31 panels in total, the numbers used to create the correct time must all add up to the same number of panels e.g. 17:07:16 not only uses 22 panels to display it, but 1 + 7 + 0 + 7 + 1 + 6 = 22.

HOURS MINUTES SECONDS





SUBROKU

If these two grids were overlaid, they would form a completed sudoku grid. However, there would be a single error, since no number can repeat in any row, column or 3x2 box. Which number should be changed, and to what?

	3				5
4		2	6		
	6				
	1	4		5	
	2				
5				3	1

6		1	4	2	
	2			1	3
3		5	1	4	2
2			3		6
1		3	5	6	4
	4	6	2		

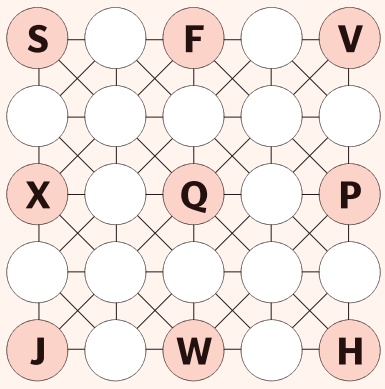
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CHILDREN'S PUZZLES

GOGEN

Insert letters to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert all the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all the listed words are spelled out this way.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



~~A~~BCDE~~F~~G~~H~~I~~J~~KLMNO~~P~~Q~~R~~S~~T~~U~~V~~W~~X~~Y

DOME
FORTY
GRIT
JAW

MEALY
NUMB
PIQUE
SKETCH

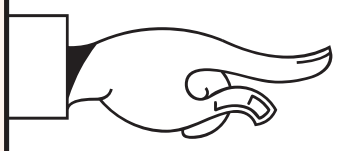
VORTEX

AB~~C~~~~D~~E~~F~~GHI~~J~~~~K~~~~L~~MNOP~~Q~~~~R~~STUVW~~X~~Y

BOTCH
DAY
FIXTURE
IVY

JIVE
PALM
SHOVE
SQUEAK

WRUNG

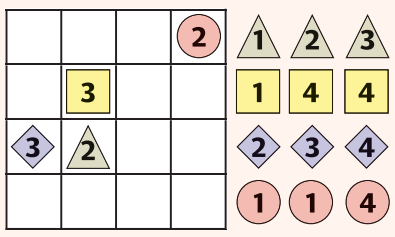


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PUZZLES

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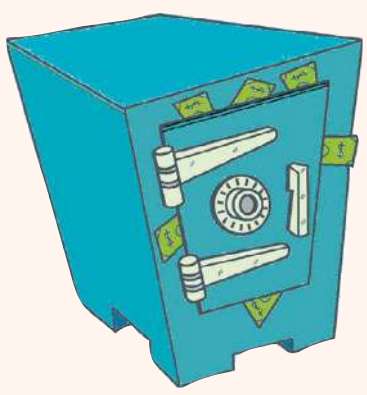
Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column of the grid.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



SAFE CRACKER

Four different digits between 1–9 are required to open a safe. From the clues below, can you work out the correct four-digit combination?
Solution on the last page of puzzles.

1 Only one of the last two digits is odd.
2 The second is three less than the third.
3 The first and fourth differ by two.
4 The sum of all the digits is less than 21.
5 The second is greater than twice the fourth.



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2x3 box contains the numbers 1-6.
Solutions on the last page of puzzles.

GENTLE

			5	4	6
				3	
	3		1		
		1		6	
	1				
5		4			

MODERATE

		3			6
	5				
	2				
			3	1	
	6			4	
5					

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all of the words from the list in the grid below?
Solution on the last page of puzzles.

AVOCET · CANARY · COOT · CRANE · DODO · DOVE · DUCK · FINCH

GROUSE · GULL · HAWK · HERON · JAY · KITE · KIWI · KNOT · LARK · MOA

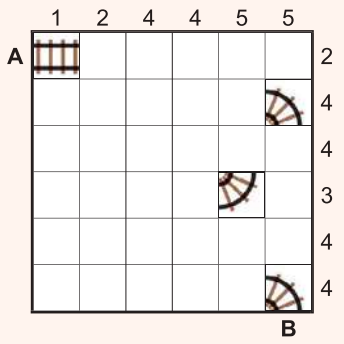
NIGHTJAR · NUTHATCH · OSTRICH · OWL · PIGEON · QUAIL · RAVEN

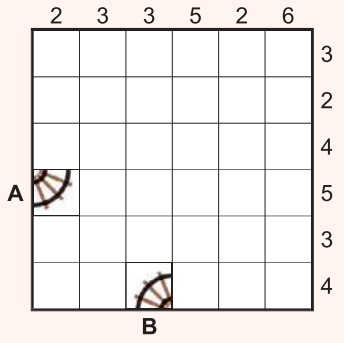
ROBIN · ROOK · SNIPE · SPARROW · STORK · TERN · THRUSH · WREN

S F A N G K N I B O R I
T O O C U I H O W L W H
O O M Y L T Q E E I E C
R L Z V L E H N K G P F
K A V O C E T A N D I S
G R O U S E Y R T U N P
N K J D O D O C X C S A
R A J T H G I N F K H R
E C A N A R Y I K S E R
T N E V A R N V U O R O
O E V J H C I R T S O W
N R O A H G H A W K N R
K W D Y A T Z Q U A I L

MINI TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down train tracks to allow a train to travel from point A to point B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers around the grid indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row.
Solutions on the last page of puzzles.

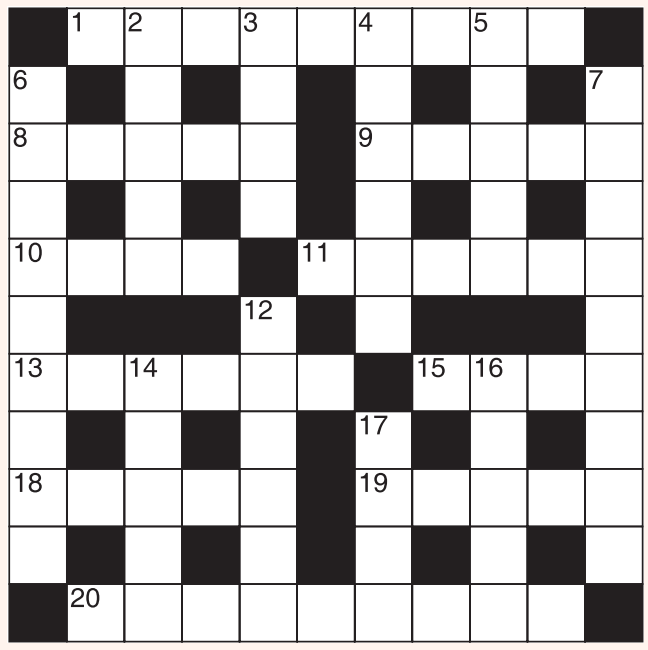




JUNIOR CROSSWORD

Across
1 Cucumber-like vegetable (9)
8 Butterfly-like insects (5)
9 Chain rings (5)
10 Paddles (4)
11 Paper handkerchief (6)
13 Tower of a castle (6)
15 Stop, cease (4)
18 Himalayan nation (5)
19 Additional; more (5)
20 Blizzard (9)

Down
2 Semi-aquatic animal; anagram of "torte" (5)
3 Stand up (4)
4 Oblong cream cake (6)
5 Melodies, songs (5)
6 Significant (9)
7 Vital (9)
12 Colour of buttercups (6)
14 Mature (5)
16 Adapt, change or shift (5)
17 Opposite of right (4)



Notes

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

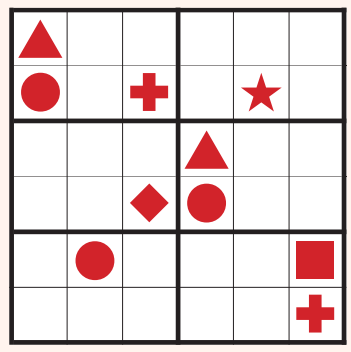
Can you spot the ten differences between the two pictures below?
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



Illustration by Sarah Khan

SHAPES

Fill in the rows, columns and boxes with the six different shapes without the same shape appearing twice in any row, column or box.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



JUNIOR MIND GYM

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across, following the instructions in each cell.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.

LEVEL 1	21	2/3 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-15	÷3	X BY ITSELF	ANSWER
LEVEL 2	12	x8	-61	6/7 OF THIS	x2.5	TRIPLE IT	ANSWER
LEVEL 3	132	÷12	X BY ITSELF	-65	TRIPLE IT	5/8 OF THIS	ANSWER
LEVEL 4	182	9/14 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-215	÷17	x9.75	ANSWER

LETTER LINKS

Below are some letters of the alphabet. However, a few are missing and it's your job to find out which ones. The missing letters rearranged will spell out three words that link with the word 'school'.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



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GRIDDLER

NO. 1665: QUITE A DROP

How to play

Basics: Griddlers are solved using number clues to locate solids (filled-in squares) and dots (empty squares) to reveal a picture.

Each column and row has a series of numbers next to it. These refer to the number of adjacent squares that should be filled as solids. If more than one number appears, that line will contain more than one block of solids.

The solid blocks must appear in the order that the numbers are printed. For example, a row that contains the numbers 11.5 would contain, somewhere, a block of 11 adjacent filled-in squares (solids), then a gap of one or more empty squares (with dots in) and then a block of five adjacent filled-in squares.

Strategies

First see if any line has a single clue number bigger than half the length of its line. If there is one, you can fill one or more squares in the centre of the line. Count first from one end, then count from the other end: where two counts overlap, the squares must be solid.

If there are two clue numbers, and they add up to more than half the length, a similar technique can be used by counting from each end in turn.

How to enter

See details below. The solution and winner will be published in two weeks' time.

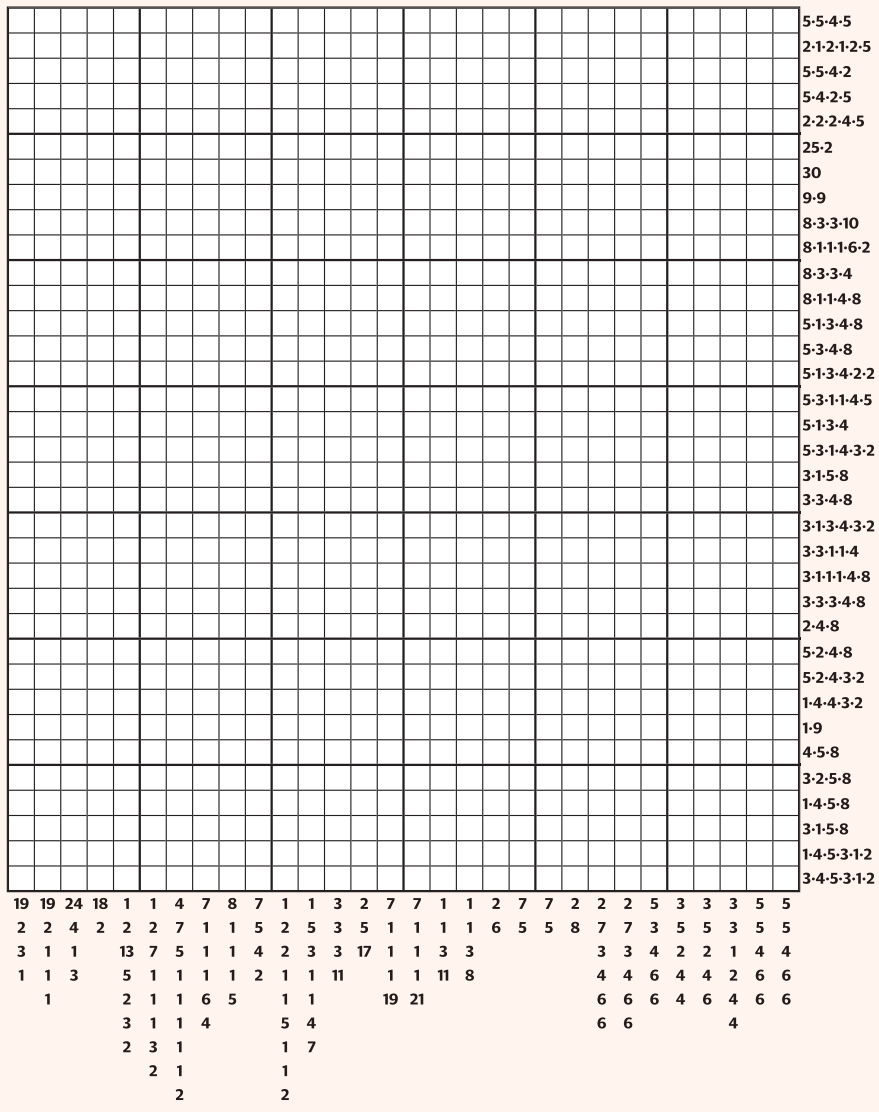


GRIDDLER 1663 SOLUTION

Piano Basics

Winner

Valerie Stannard, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs



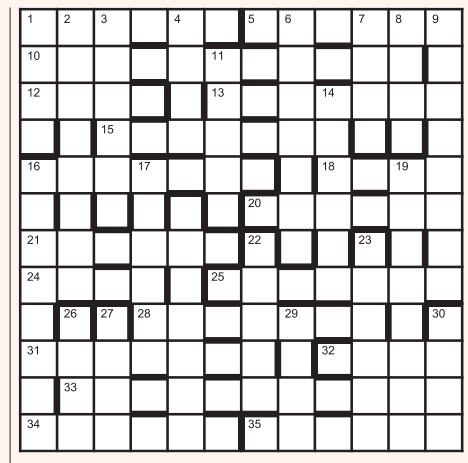
5·5·4·5
2·1·2·1·2·5
5·5·4·2
5·4·2·5
2·2·2·4·5
25·2
30
9·9
8·3·3·10
8·1·1·1·6·2
8·3·3·4
8·1·1·4·8
5·1·3·4·8
5·3·4·8
5·1·3·4·2·2
5·3·1·1·4·5
5·1·3·4
5·3·1·4·3·2
3·1·5·8
3·3·4·8
3·1·3·4·3·2
3·3·1·1·4
3·1·1·1·4·8
3·3·3·4·8
2·4·8
5·2·4·8
5·2·4·3·2
1·4·4·3·2
1·9
4·5·8
3·2·5·8
1·4·5·8
3·1·5·8
1·4·5·3·1·2
3·4·5·3·1·2

19	19	24	18	1	1	4	7	8	7	1	1	3	2	7	7	1	1	2	7	7	2	2	5	3	3	3	5	5
2	2	4	2	2	7	7	1	1	5	2	3	3	5	1	1	1	1	6	5	5	8	3	4	2	5	1	4	4
3	1	1		13	5	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	17	1	1	3	3					4	6	4	4	2	6	6
1		1		5	1	1	1	1	2		1	1		1	1	11	8					6	6	4	6	4	6	6
				2	1	1	6	5			1	1		19	21							6	6			4		
				3	1	1	4				5	4																
				2	3	1					1	7																
					2	1					1																	
						2					2																	

ENIGMATIC VARIATIONS

NO. 1557: OR DO THEY? by POAT

After completing the initial grid, solvers must justify the unclued entry (two words) by swapping the unchecked letters in 5, then swapping one of them with an unchecked letter in 25, swapping another in 25 with the one in 22 and swapping single letters (checked or otherwise) between 12/13, 16ac/23, 18/30, and 4/26. The final grid contains real words or phrases throughout, including eight entries which have something in common… OR DO THEY? *Chambers Dictionary (2016)* is recommended; one answer is an abbreviation and 31 appears in *Chambers* as part of a phrase.



Name

Address

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Hints on today's EV can be found at http://bigdave44.com (not a Telegraph website).

ACROSS

1 Note suspirations in audience, and blow up? (6)
5 After recess, teacher finally gets laugh in parts (6)
10 Learned what PC did to criminal (11)
12 Gather *X-Files* protagonist needs no tips (4)
13 Editing tone, photo developed as expected (7)
15 Receiving low grades in French to have one shirking homework? (7)
16 Sword in *The Ring* omitted from display? (7)
18 Bound to quash first hint of inclination (4)
20 Getting runaround in frosty climate, U-turn cheers Tories (6)
21 Carrying tons, put it around skip (6)
24 Top member of staff must be relocated (4)
25 Confusion surrounds strange sign in historian's eye (7)
28 Actress regularly covering skin for Shakespearean disputants (7)
31 Skilful performer rejected bum deal (7, two words)
32 Turning tail, traitor makes this bread with skill (4)
33 Zippo left in tiny rent-free accommodation (11)
34 Mature lady's rug beside right leg (6)
35 Gibbons perhaps trapped in hostel lavatory (6)

DOWN

1 Obama perhaps skipping UK airline stretch (4)
2 Form of poultice that promotes tissue growth (8)
3 Using her initial, poet's avoiding hard and soft sounds (6)
4 Philosopher buried in Brize Norton (4)
6 Milan team needing new English trainee (7)
7 Spenser's stacked up half seven-sider (4)
8 Better writing of educated Italian (4)
9 Cook up latest recipe for pies with this cheese, possibly (8)
11 That man in centre of Pforzheim? (5)
14 On vacation, opener cuts decks down under (6)
16 Collapsed ant mound is something worth seeing (8)
17 Industrial design base gets into difficulty (6, two words)
19 Close to the bone with capital running short – and the rest (8)
22 Flashy type who'd steal kitty, as Uncle Sam might say (5)
23 Join with Psyche slathering sun oil (6)
26 Wicked start for actor here (4)
27 Pry about such passing remarks? That would show honesty (4)
29 Taking this direction, running shoe's used as tea-strainer (4)
30 Existence of musical in which leader is deposed (4)

HOW TO ENTER THE PRIZE PUZZLES

A fine Telegraph fountain pen and notebook will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened from all entries received to each puzzle.

To enter by email:
Send your scanned solution and coupon, along with your postal address, to: prize.puzzles@telegraph.co.uk with **Sunday Toughie 34** or **Sunday GK 1555** or **EV 1557** or **Griddler 1665** in the subject field.

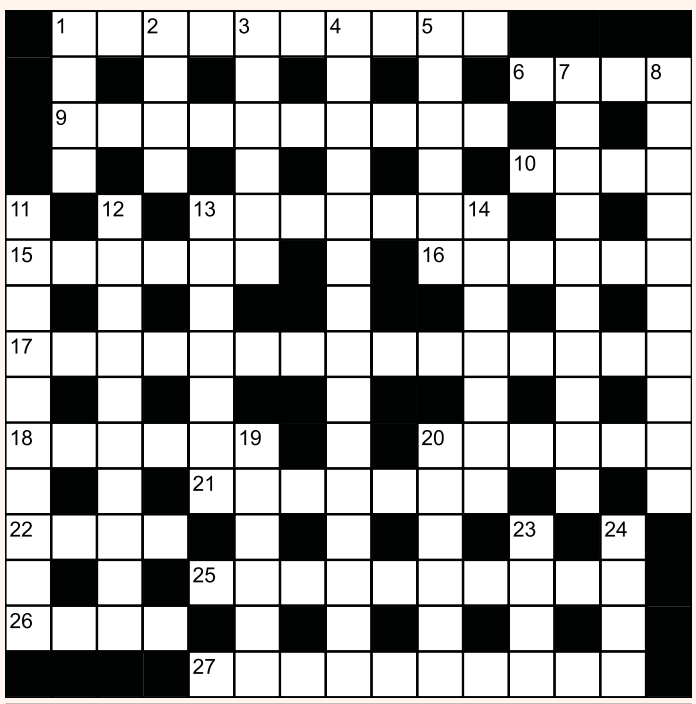
To enter by post:
Send each entry in a separate envelope to: **Sunday Toughie 34** or **Sunday GK 1555** or **EV 1557** or **Griddler 1665**, Telegraph Media Group, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DT.

Closing date:
9am Wednesday, September 28. Solutions and winners in two weeks. For terms and conditions, see telegraph.co.uk/prize-terms.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

NO. 1555



Name

Address

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Across

1 In Scotland and northern England, conspicuous (10)
6 Bottle or carpet in horse racing, e.g. (4)
9 Slang word for nonsense or silly talk (10)
10 Mist or fog off the North Sea (4)
13 Mongoose-like carnivore of southern Africa (7)
15 Prime minister between Winston Churchill's two spells as prime minister (6)
16 US state formerly known as the Sandwich Islands (6)
17 Lake near the Ards Peninsula in Northern Ireland (10,5)
18 Jane —, author of *Mansfield Park* (6)
20 Sudden involuntary expiration involved in sternutation (6)
21 Ray —, Welsh snooker player (7)
22 — Diamond, US singer with the hit *Cracklin' Rosie* in 1970 (4)
25 Male who gives advice about personal problems (5,5)
26 Make someone annoyed or irritated (4)
27 Informal bulletin for members of a group (10)

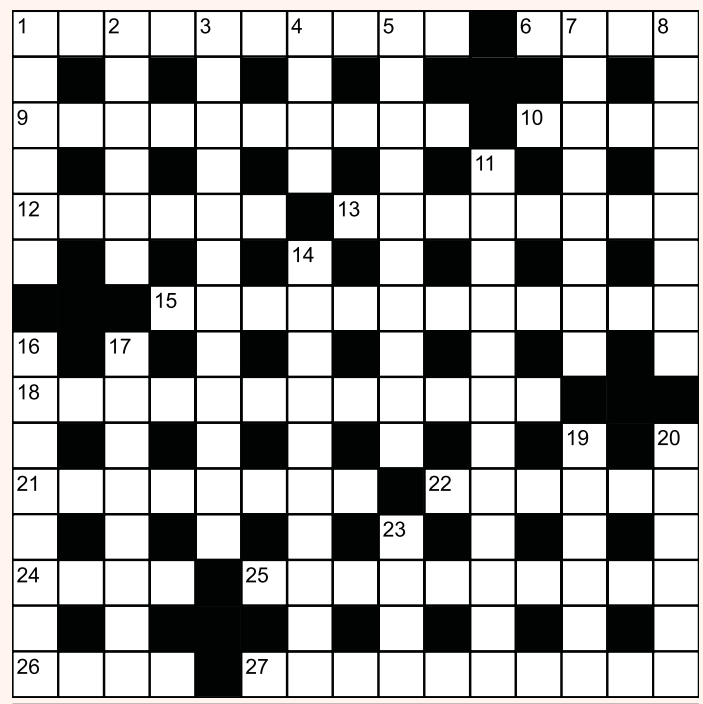
Down

1 False singular word for cow-parsley (4)
2 River flowing through Knaresborough (4)
3 Member of a North American tribe originally from Nebraska (6)
4 City in the centre of the Centennial State (8,7)
5 Tropical plant of the gourd family (6)
7 One habitually responding to situations in a sensational way (5,5)
8 Make something less complicated (10)
11 X-ray machine producing 3-D images (3,7)
12 Plant with saucer-shaped flowers closely related to geraniums (10)
13 Follow a twisting route (7)
14 Capital of Estonia (7)
19 Dame Anna —, 1904-1986, English actress (6)
20 Substance that is dissolved in another substance (6)
23 Short tail of a rabbit (4)
24 Low dam across a stream (4)

Notes

SUNDAY TOUGHIE

NO. 34 by ROBYN



Name

Address

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Across

1 Supposing revolutionary changes image of zealots (10)
6 *Material Girl* (4)
9 Supporter of United admitted to the Saints' ground (10)
10 Knocked over computers, making racket (4)
12 President Ford, say, with sign of woe leaving America (6)
13 Report on empty space filled with nitrogen gas (8)
15 It gives speaker skill in rows about Liberal character (7,5)
18 Peaked cap, which may divide Derby or Cheshire? (12)
21 Support that man with extremely cagy forecast (8)
22 Simplistic account saved in folder (6)
24 Eastern inlet, site surfers may come across (4)
25 Baddie getting on with female clad in red (10)
26 Glimpse face of duke, a court favourite (4)
27 While wine goes round call for bitter (10)

Down

1 Rip off coat (6)
2 Heartless Del Boy perhaps on the rise, making a comeback (6)
3 British engineer with chisel working for architect (12)
4 Figure advanced northward, getting the Central Line (4)
5 Attractive walls round cosy home not being straight (10)
7 English stumped, packing freight? French scoff (8)
8 Came to feeling less excited, less content (8)
11 High rates with invoice, which is gutting (12)
14 Rapidly developing business valued stores (10)
16 Ruins case of synthetic drugs (8)
17 Do up coats of rare textile worn by star (8)
19 River contains more than one grand carp (6)
20 Capital port that is turning into kind of wine (6)
23 Germans' current poetry meets with resistance (4)

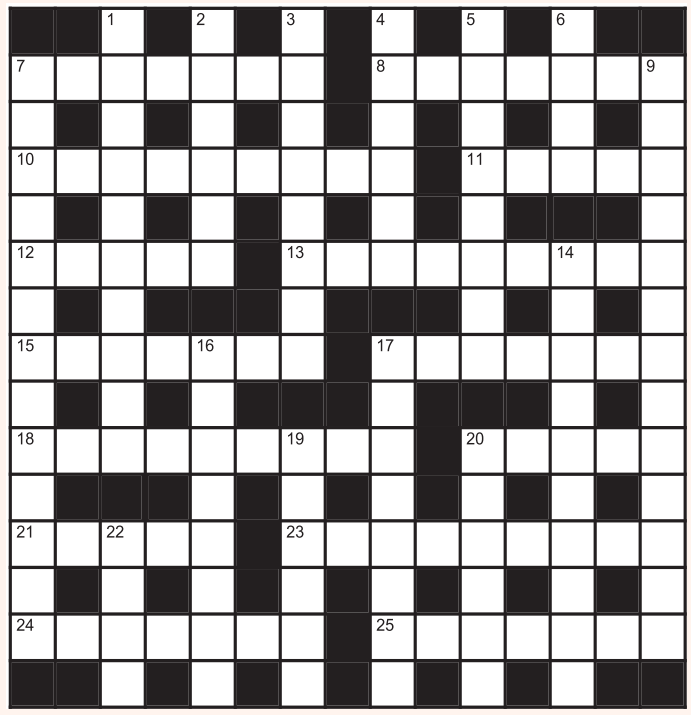
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50-50 CROSSWORD

In this 50-50 crossword, across clues are cryptic, down clues are quick. *Solution on the last page of puzzles.*

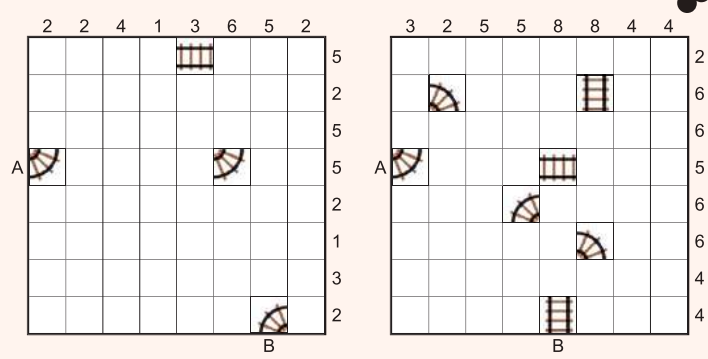
Across
7 Delivery for club's doorman (7)
8 Strong incentive for fiery type (7)
10 Question audience (9)
11 Ben is comic playwright (5)
12 Very serious about good sad song (5)
13 Classified street cop differently (3,6)
15 Service may be disrupted anytime (7)
17 Modelling session (7)
18 Republic created by Romanians after revolution (3,6)
20 Part of the body aches – this part (5)
21 Female in group, out of shape (5)
23 Bound to put an end to children's game (9)
24 Chain of flowers and iron also kept in tin? (7)
25 Adult complaint heard and raised (5-2)

Down
1 Vegetable (6,4)
2 Not often found (6)
3 Skill (8)
4 Embarrass (4,2)
5 Loud and grating (8)
6 Musical work (4)
7 Party game (9,4)
9 Manage a business strictly (3,1,5,4)
14 Imitation diamond (10)
16 Idleness (8)
17 Obstruction (8)
19 Under control (2,4)
20 Bird; slightly mad (6)
22 Quick (4)



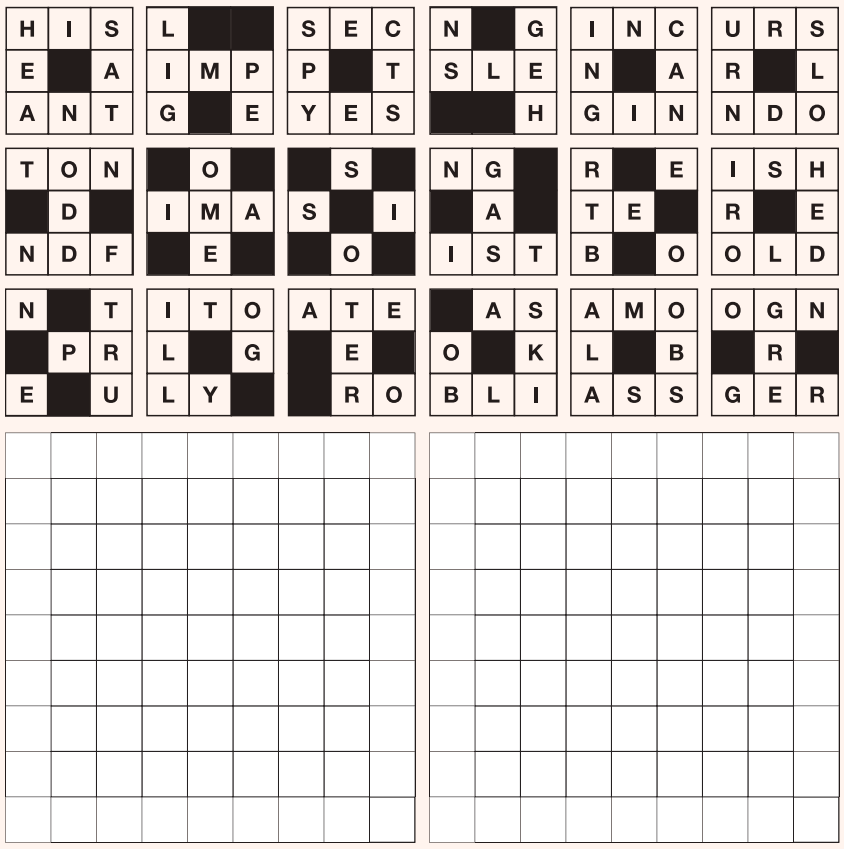
TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down train tracks to allow a train to travel from point A to point B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers around the grid indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row.
Solutions on the last page of puzzles.



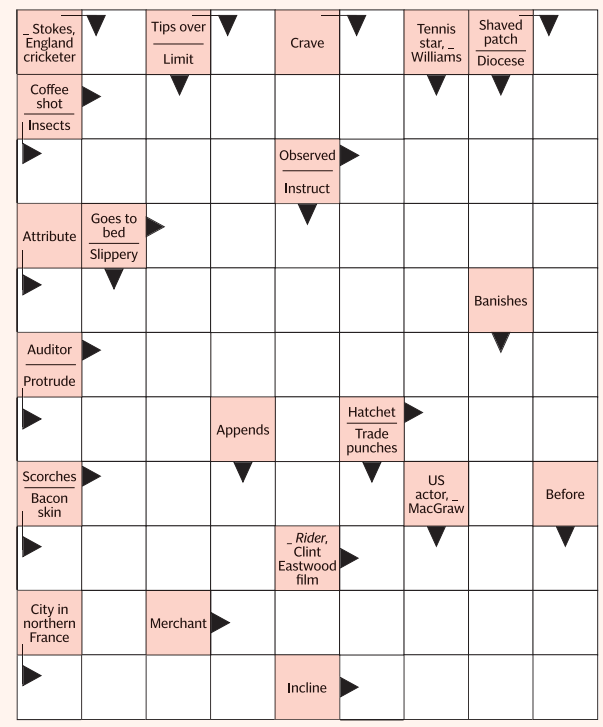
DOUBLE JIGWORD

Arrange these crossword fragments to create two completed symmetrical crosswords.
Solutions on the last page of puzzles.



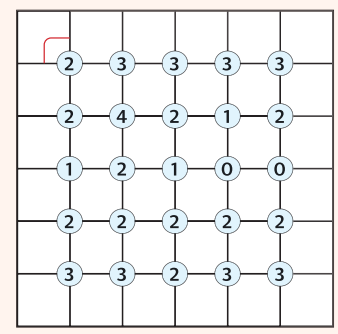
ARROW WORD

The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



LOOP

Draw a continuous loop in the grid so that the number in each circle corresponds to the number of adjacent squares containing turns in the loop. Part of the loop has been drawn to get you started.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.



SUDOKU WITH A TWIST

Solve the sudoku in the usual way, ensuring that each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9 only. The twist is that the shaded cells must also contain the numbers 1 to 9. Today's target time is 23 minutes.
Solution on the last page of puzzles.

MODERATE 658

			5	6				
6		4					1	
		5				6		7
	7		3		9			
	2						3	
			4		1		9	
7		3				5		
	5					2		9
				7	5			



THE PUB QUIZ

GAVIN FULLER

1 Who was the lead singer of the Seekers, whose hits included *The Carnival Is Over* and *Georgy Girl*, who died last month?

2 In which country is the South American headland of Cape Horn located?

3 Liverpool striker Darwin Núñez and Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur are footballers from which country?

4 The scaly anteater is an alternative name for which mammal?

5 In Scottish legend, a kelpie is a shapeshifting spirit which usually appears on land in the shape of which animal?

6 What is the most populous city in Tanzania?

7 Which metal derives its name from the German for "demon"?

8 Samuel Johnson's only novel has as its title character Rasselas, a prince of which African country of the time?

9 What is the scientific study of celestial objects, space and the universe known as?

10 Which 1987 film was a remake of the French film *Trois hommes et un couffin*, made two years previously?

11 What is the name of the huge ash tree binding together heaven, earth and hell in Norse mythology?

12 Which Oxford college is named after the title in the peerage taken by its founder, motor manufacturer William Morris?

13 José Raúl Capablanca is the only man to date from which country to be World Chess Champion?

14 Which nursery rhyme usually ends "And here comes a chopper to chop off your head!" in its modern form?

15 What is the name of the parliament of Israel?

16 Which Netflix series is primarily set in Litchfield Penitentiary?

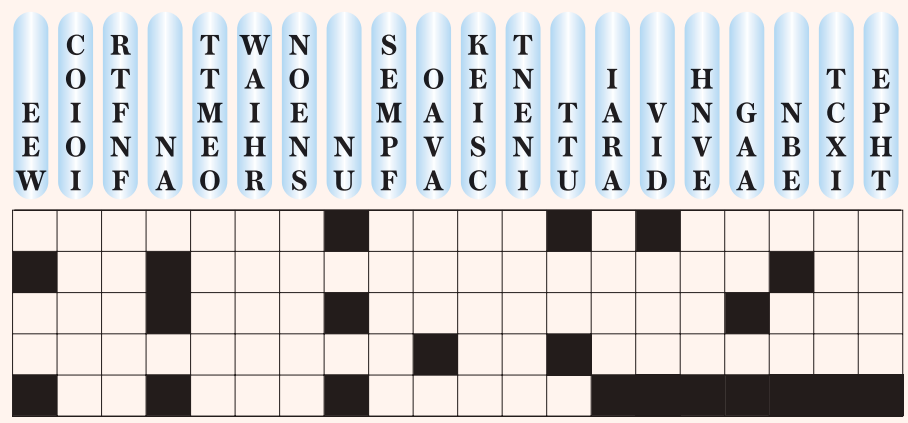
17 Which organs of the body are affected by the medical condition glaucoma?

The title of which play by Sean O'Casey can be made by unscrambling the first letter of each answer?

ANSWERS 1 Judith Durham **2** Chile **3** Uruguay **4** Pangolin **5** Horse **6** Dar es Salaam **7** Nickel **8** Abyssinia **9** Astronomy **10** *Three Men and a Baby* **11** Yggdrasil **12** Nuffield College **13** Cuba **14** *Oranges and Lemons* **15** Knesset **16** *Orange is the New Black* **17** Eyes **Play:** *Juno and the Paycock*

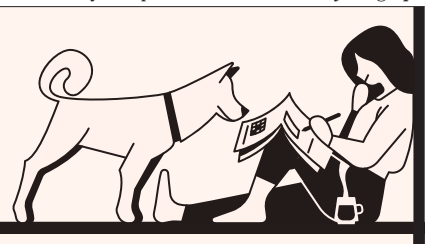
QUOTE DOWN

Drop the letters in each column to reconstruct a Brian Tracy quote. Words may be split across two lines.
Solutions on the last page of puzzles.



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Puzzles



THE SOLUTIONS

TODAY'S

Big X Sudoku

4	9	5	8	6	1	2	7	3
8	1	3	2	4	7	5	9	6
6	2	7	5	3	9	4	1	8
9	5	8	6	7	2	3	4	1
3	4	6	1	9	5	8	2	7
2	7	1	4	8	3	6	5	9
5	3	2	7	1	8	9	6	4
1	6	9	3	5	4	7	8	2
7	8	4	9	2	6	1	3	5

5	2	1	9	8	6	3	4	7
6	8	9	3	4	7	2	1	5
4	7	3	2	5	1	9	8	6
9	3	6	7	2	4	5	1	8
1	3	8	7	6	4	5	9	2
2	4	7	6	1	9	5	7	3
9	3	6	8	5	7	2	4	1
7	1	5	3	4	2	8	9	6
6	5	8	2	7	4	3	1	9
3	7	1	9	6	5	4	8	2
2	4	9	1	8	3	6	5	7

			5	1	9	3	7	4
			2	4	8	6	1	9
			5	7	6	3	2	8
6	4	3	5	1	2	8	9	7
9	7	5	6	3	8	2	1	4
2	8	1	7	4	9	5	6	3
5	3	6	4	8	7	9	2	1
1	9	4	3	2	5	7	8	6
3	2	7	8	9	1	4	5	6
4	6	8	9	5	3	1	7	2
7	5	9	1	6	2	3	4	8
8	1	2	4	7	6	5	3	9

Pathfinder

H	T	O	R	I	R	O	C	E	R	A	R	C	H	I
I	S	D	N	A	G	I	F	E	R	A	T	N	T	T
I	C	O	C	T	N	G	E	R	I	N	N	A	C	E
A	I	C	E	O	E	H	T	C	F	T	U	N	N	Y
N	R	T	L	R	E	B	T	H	E	N	O	C	C	A
C	E	L	E	G	R	A	S	E	D	L	A	N	B	L
O	S	L	S	T	I	R	I	M	R	I	I	E	F	A
U	N	O	F	F	N	R	R	W	A	B	R	G	I	C
B	E	R	U	E	A	I	E	H	S	R	A	U	L	K
O	S	N	A	U	I	S	T	M	I	D	R	A	T	S
T	R	U	H	R	P	R	E	O	F	P	C	A	S	M
A	S	T	C	D	A	N	G	N	T	U	I	N	I	I
N	I	A	N	R	U	C	F	A	S	B	L	C	T	T
S	I	L	I	S	O	E	R	R	I	P	O	H	N	H
T	T	R	A	T	J	R	E	M	D	O	R	I	E	D

Letter Logic

		F	A	R	M	Y	A	R	D		C	A	S	H	E	W
S		L		E		F		E		O		C		Q		F
T	W	I	N	S	E	T		B	A	R	R	A	C	U	D	A
O		E		M		E	U		D		R		A		K	
R	A	N	G	E		R	A	T	T	Y		P	U	L	S	E
K			R		S			L		E						
S	E	L	F	I	S	H		F	R	I	A	R	S	C	A	P
		L		S		O		O		N				U		U
S	U	A	V	E		W	H	I	T	E	S	P	I	R	I	T
W		N				L				O		S		O		
A	B	O	D	E		G	R	E	A	S	Y	S	P	O	O	N
R			N		E		D		E		T		R			
M	E	D	I	C	I	N	E		C	A	T	A	L	Y	S	T
		R		L		U		B		L		G				A
J	E	A	L	O	U	S	N	E	S	S		E	A	S	E	L
U		B		S			W				H		K			
R	U	B	B	E	R	S	T	A	M	P		C	H	E	S	S
A		L		T		R	A		O		L					
T	R	E	E	S	N	A	K	E		R	I	N	G	L	E	T
			A		N			T		S				E		
C	A	P	E	R		D	E	C	O	R		T	A	S	E	R
A		E		D		P	R		I		R		N		R	
P	E	R	C	A	P	I	T	A		D	I	A	B	O	L	O
O		I		N		P		Z		G		I		U		R
	A	L	S	A	C	E		E	T	E	R	N	I	T	Y	

Cryptic Connections

1: Swagger
2: Needle
3: Fiddle
4: Around
5: Insect
Connection: Stick

Checkmate

1.Qg6+ Kh8 2.Ng5! fxg5 (if 2...hxg5 3.Qh5#) 3.Qxh6#

50-50 Crossword

		B	S	A		S	S	O						
B	O	U	N	C	E	R		H	O	T	S	P	U	R
L		T		A		T	O		R		U		U	
I	N	T	E	R	V	I	E	W		I	B	S	E	N
N		E		C	S		U		D				A	
D	I	R	G	E		T	O	P	S	E	C	R	E	T
M		B			R			N		H		I		
A	M	E	N	I	T	Y		S	I	T	T	I	N	G
N		A		N			T			N		H		
S	A	N	M	A	R	I	N	O		C	H	E	S	T
B			C		N		P		U		S		S	
U	N	F	I	T		H	O	P	S	C	O	T	C	H
F		A		I		A		K		O		I		
F	E	S	T	O	O	N		G	R	O	W	N	U	P
		T		N		D		E		O		E		

Crossgram

N	D	B	B	I	N									
D	E	F	I	N	E	A	N	N	U	A	L			
R	G	A	S	N	M									
B	O	L	E		C	H	I	N	A	S	E			
S	H	N	T	S										
F	U	R	T	H	E	R		M	E	D	A	L		
N	D	W	K											
F	L	E	S	H		T	A	N	G	L	E	D		
O	P	W	R	A										
A	C	T	I	V	I	S	M		R	A	M	P		
K	R	V	I	N	A									
B	E	T	I	D	E		S	M	E	A	R	Y		
D	T	S	H	T	C									

Safe Cracker

3581

Junior Mind Gym

1: 81 **2:** 225
3: 105 **4:** 78

Letter Links

Bus - Night - Work

General Knowledge Crossword

W	S	D	M	M	A	T	L			C	N			
C	O	R	L	E	O	N	E		A	N	D	R	O	M
O	A	N	G	C	H	W	L	W	P	W				
L	U	N	A	R	P	A	R	K		E	L	E	G	Y
W	E	E	F	I	S	H			Y	A	O	V		
L	I	L	Y	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	O		B
H	E	C	K	E	L	P	H	O	N	E		B	H	A
P	A			S		A	N	M	O	A				
S	A	B	R	E	T	O	O	T	H		R	E	B	E
S	A	H	T			I	E	H	N	T	G			
L	I	T	T	L	E	T	R	Y	G	V	E	L	I	E
F	A	Y	R	O	N			T	E	D	R	A		
R	A	N	C	H	O	D	E	D	L	U	X	E		W
L	U	U	L	L	N		A				W			
I	S	S	I	N	G	I	N	G		C	O	S	T	A
Z		G	T	W	O	T	H		T	A		C		
M	A	N	V	I	L	L	E		I	A	N	H	I	S
R	E	I	N		N	A	I	L		A	L			
A	D	O	R	N	O		P	A	S	H	A		G	E
A	N	N	I	T		C	T		T	N	H	T		
B	R	N	O		S	U	T	T	O	N	H	O	O	
I	N		T	N	T	N	C	E	R	S				

Seki



Mind Gym

Easy: 6
Medium: 55
Hard: 81

Number Jig

7272

Shapes

18

Mirror Image

A

Loop



Filling Time

18:26:59

Quote Down

"Winners make a habit of manufacturing their own positive expectations in advance of the event"

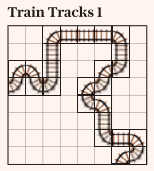
Missing Words

Knight, Litter, Wilderness

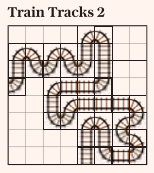
Sudoku X

1	6	7	5	3	8	9	2	4
8	9	3	4	2	1	7	6	5
5	2	4	7	9	6	1	3	8
4	8	2	6	1	9	5	7	3
9	3	6	8	5	7	2	4	1
7	1	5	3	4	2	8	9	6
6	5	8	2	7	4	3	1	9
3	7	1	9	6	5	4	8	2
2	4	9	1	8	3	6	5	7

Train Tracks 1



Train Tracks 2



Double Jigword 1

A	M	O	N	G		H	I	S
L		B		A		E		A
A	S	S	I	S	T	A	N	T
N		T		O		R		E
	P	R	I	M	A	T	E	
E		U		E		B		O
S	E	C	A	T	E	U	R	S
P		T		E		R		L
Y	E	S		R	O	N	D	O

Double Jigword 2

A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	
O		K		D		R		E
B	L	I	N	D	F	O	L	D
L		S		N		G		
I	M	P	S		I	S	L	E
G		E		O			H	
I	N	C	O	G	N	I	T	O
N		A		R		L		G
G	I	N	G	E	R	L	Y	

Triangle



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is S: Persian, Snowshoe, Siamese; all breeds of cat

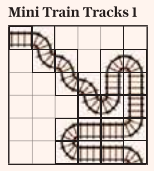
Sumthing

4x9=36
5x7=35
9+2=11

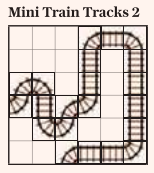
Junior Crossword

C	O	U	R	G	E	T	T	E						
I		T		I		C		U	E					
M	O	T	H	S		L	I	N	K	S				
P		E		A		E		S						
O	A	R	S		T	I	S	S	U	E				
R		Y		R		N								
T	U	R	R	E	T		H	A	L	T				
A		I		L		I		L		I				
N	E	P	A	L		E	X	T	R	A				
T		E		O		F		E		L				
S	N	O	W	S	T	O	R	M						

Mini Train Tracks 1



Mini Train Tracks 2



Gogen 1

S	N	F	B	V
K	U	M	O	D
X	E	Q	R	P
L	A	T	I	G
J	Y	W	C	H

Gogen 2

J	M	L	Y	K
B	I	V	A	P
F	O	X	E	D
H	T	U	R	G
C	S	Q	N	W

Dango



Word Ladder

1: Down, Dawn, Darn, Tarn, Tart, Cart, Cast
2: Spin, Span, Spam, Seam, Seal, Real, Reel

Anagrams

Dover Beach, Adlestrop, Ozymandias, The Waste Land, The Lady of Shalott

Jigsaw Sudoku

8	6	9	5	2	4	1	7	3
1	4	8	3	7	6	5	9	2
7	2	4	1	6	3	9	8	5
4	3	5	6	9	8	2	1	7
9	7	1	2	4	5	8	3	6
3	5	2	7	1	9	6	4	8
5	8	6	9	3	1	7	2	4
2	9	3	8	5	7	4	6	1
6	1	7	4	8	2	3	5	9

Mini Sudoku 1

1	2	3	5	4	6
6	4	5	2	3	1
4	3	6	1	2	5
2	5	1	4	6	3
3	1	2	6	5	4
5	6	4	3	1	2

Mini Sudoku 2

4	1	3	2	5	6
2	5	6	1	3	4
3	2	1	4	6	5
6	4	5	3	1	2
1	6	2	5	4	3
5	3	4	6	2	1

Cells

	2				4
	2	4			
			2		6
	2			2	
	3	3			4
			8	2	
5					

Subroku

6	3	1	4	2	5
4	5	2	6	1	3
3	6	5	1	4	2
2	1	4	3	5	6
1	2	3	5	6	4
5	4	6	2	3	1

Keijo



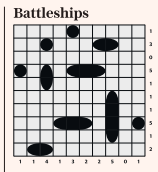
Word Slide

Eager, easel, egger, egret, faker, farce, firer, first, force, fosse, taker, taser, tiger, vague, vogue

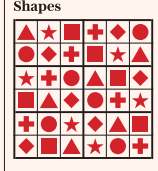
Picture It

132cm

Battleships



Shapes



Gentle Sudoku

9	3	7	6	1	8	5	2	4
8	4	5	9	3	2	7	1	6
1	2	6	7	4	5	9	8	3
3	8	1	4	5	6	2	9	7
7	6	2	3	8	9	4	5	1
5	9	4	1	2	7	3	6	8
4	5	3	8	9	1	6	7	2
6	1	9	2	7	3	8	4	5
2	7	8	5	6	4	1	3	9

Arrow Word

	B		U		D			T
	E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O
A	N	T	S		S	E	E	N
		R	E	T	I	R	E	S
F	E	A	T	U	R	E		U
	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	R
J	U	T		O		A	X	E
	S	E	A	R	S		I	
R	I	N	D		P	A	L	E
	V		D	E	A	L	E	R
L	E	N	S		R	I	S	E

Figure It Out

First work out the size of the mailbox.

The square part is 14cm wide, so it is also 14cm tall. 14cm × 14cm = 196cm². The semicircle adds 7cm to the height, so it has a radius of 7cm. The area of a circle is π x radius², so the area of the semicircle is (22/7 × 7²) ÷ 2 = 77cm².

This makes the total area of the end of the mailbox 196 + 77 = 273cm².

Multiply the area by the depth (273 x 50) to give a total volume of 13,650cm³. Eight tubes will take up 1,700cm³ × 8 = 13,600cm³, so Caleb will be able to fit eight tubes into the mailbox.

Spot the Difference



Wordsearch

S	F	A	N	N	A	K	N	J	B	O	R	I		
T	O	O	O	N	I	R	O	W	W	H				
O	Q	W	Y	L	L	B	Z	X	E	C				
R	C	Z	U	U	E	L	N	N	C	F				
K	A	V	O	C	E	D	A	N	N	S				
G	R	O	U	S	E	Y	R	T	N	G				
N	K	J	O	D	O	C	X	C	S	A				
R	A	J	T	H	G	I	N	F	E	N	O	M		
E	C	A	N	A	R	Y	I	S	E	R				
O	N	E	V	A	R	M	Y	X	K	O				
E	V	G	C	G	T	S	T	O	N	W				
N	R	O	A	B	S	H	A	W	N	R				
K	W	D	V	A	T	Z	Q	U	A	I	L			

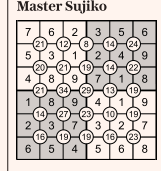
Evens

4	6	1	2	13
7	3	5	9	24
8	9	2	6	25
9	2	3	5	19
28	20	11	22	

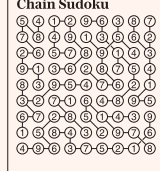
Sudoku with a Twist

1	9	7	5	6	8	3	2	4
6	8	4	2	3	7	9	1	5
2	3	5	9	1	4	6	8	7
4	7	1	3	2	9	8	5	6
5	2	9	7	8	6	4	3	1
3	6	8	4	5	1	7	9	2
7	1	3	6	9	2	5	4	8
8	5	6	1	4	3	2	7	9
9	4	2	8	7	5	1	6	3

Master Sujiko



Chain Sudoku



Round The Block

17	33	11	⇄		18	10	12							
3	31	25	⇄		30	24	26							
15	7	21	⇄		6	22	14							
⇅			⇅		⇅									
4	34	36	⇄		5	23	35							
2	32	28	⇄		29	1	27							
16	8	20	⇄		19	9	13							

Futoshiki

6	7	1	3	2	5	4
5	3	7	1	6	4	2
4	2	5	6	7	3	1
7	1	6	4	3	2	5
2	6	4	5	1	7	3
3	5	2	7	4	1	6
1	4	3	2	5	6	7

Killer Uncaged

5	2	1	3	8	4	7	6	9
9	7	8	5	6	1	4	2	3
4	3	6	7	2	9	8	5	1
7	9	3	4	5	8	6	1	2
2	1	5	6	3	7	9	8	4
8	6	4	1	9	2	5	3	7
1	8	9	2	4	6	3	7	5
3	4	7	8	1	5	2	9	6
6	5	2	9	7	3	1	4	8

Kakuro



Suko

751, 423, 968

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Codewords A

C	U	S	T	A	R	D		V	I	X	E	N		
H	P	N	A		T		E	I						
I	C	I	N	G		M	A	T	I	N	E	E		
T	R	I	F	L	E	S		M	A	N	S	E		
N	R		E	A		A	O	C						
E	S	S	A	Y		A	N	I	S	E				
B	I	J	O	U		A	I	R	W	A	V	E		
A	U		E	W		O	S	C						
C	H	I	C	O	R	Y		B	E	I	G	E		
U	G		U	E		I	D	S						
S	T	E	M	S		R	I	N	G	E	R	S		

Codewords B

	P	A	R	T	Y	O	C	T	E	T				
O	L	I	G	H	W	E								
A	U	A	V	P		G								
R	O	M	A	N	C	E		S	C	A	L	E		
G	I	T	L		C									
E	X	P	E	C	T		O	B	J	E	C	T		
O		P		R		I								
V	O	D	K	A		R	I	Z	O	M	E			
I		D		O		N		F		D				
E	Q	U	I	N	O	X		I	N					
W	S	I	T	Y		A	E	E						
	B	E	A	S	T		B	L	A	N	D			

PlusWord

T	A	M	P	A
A	W	A	R	D
R	A	P	I	D
T	I	L	D	E
S	T	E	E	R

Print

Friday's Tough Sudoku No. 5984

7	8	3	2	4	9	5	6	1
4	6	2	1	5	8	9	7	3
1	5	9	3	7	6	2	8	4
3	7	6	4	9	2	1	5	8
2	1	8	5	6	3	7	4	9
5	9	4	8	1	7	6	3	2
9	4	5	6	8	1	3	2	7
6	2	1	7	3	4	8	9	5
8	3	7	9	2	5	4	1	6

Tough Sudoku

3	7	4	8	1	5	6	2	9
9	5	6	2	3	7	8	4	1
2	1	8	9	6	4	3	5	7
5	3	1	6	2	8	7	9	4
6	8	7	5	4	9	1	3	2
4	2	9	3	7	1	5	6	8
8	6	3	1	9	2	4	7	5
7	9	5	4	8	3	2	1	6
1	4	2	7	5	6	9	8	3

Killer Sudoku No. 745

5	2	8	4	9	3	1	6	7
7	1	9	6	5	8	2	4	3
4	6	3	7	1	2	8	9	5
3	5	2	9	8	4	7	1	6
9	8	1	2	7	6	3	5	4
6	7	4	5	3	1	9	8	2
8	3	6	1	2	5	4	7	9
1	9	5	3	4	7	6	2	8
2	4	7	8	6	9	5	3	1

Polyword

Reinforce, enforcer, confrere, refiner, fiercer, fernier, enforce, conifer, refine, forcer, fierce, ferric, ferine, fencer, confer, rifer, refer, infer, frier, freer, force, firer, finer, fence, rife, reef, info, froe, free, fore, firn, fire, fino, fine, fern, corf, coif

PRIZE-WINNERS

GK Crossword No. 1553

H	O	B	B	I	A	M	A	P	O	R	A	M		
A	T	Y		A		A		D		O		N		
M	I	L	L	I	G	A	N		R		N			
B	L	E		N	O	R	M	A	N	D				
B	R	A	S	M	U	S		N		B				
R		B		O		B	O	E	W	E	S	T		
S		T												
B	A	S	T	E	R	N	H	O	R	T	H	O	D	O
X														
S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N						
A	X	O	N											
E		I	P		K	I	M	O	N	O	A	T		
M	A	R	C	H		E								
A		U				R	E	M	U	S				
P														
I		E												
E	S	S	A	Y	I	S	T		D	E	N	I	S	

Winner
Glenda Westley, Walsall, West Midlands

Sunday Toughie No. 32

A	B	F	B	S		B	C	R	U	N	G	E		
E	A	P		H		P	A	N						
O	P	E	C	U	T		R	E	S	E	R	V	E	D
D	E	S	E	D		P	E	A						
S	C	H	O	O	N	E	R		P	I	L	L	I	N
E	O	F	S	T		R	E							
E	S	H	R	U	B									
S	H	E		N		T	R							
P	I	E	G	E	S	O	P	E	I	E	H	T		
I		O		N		E		D						
S	A	L	M	O	N		D	U	T	F	R	E	E	
I		I		E										
M	B	E												
I														
C	H	A	S	T	I	S	E		E	M	B	E	R	S

Winner
N. Scott, Leominster, Herefordshire

Enigmatic Variations No. 1555

S	E	N	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	U	S			
E	R	E	D	I	J	E	S	S	A	N	T			
B	U	D	G	E	T	C	L	I	Y	V	R			
A	V	E	E	R	B	R	A	S	S	I	E			
C	A	L	L	P	H	E	R	E	A	T	A			
T	I	N	I	S	E	W	A	G	E	Y	A	M		
C	O	N	R	E	A	T	E	M	E	L	L			
A	D	E	N	I	D	E	B	U	R	I	I			
G	Y	A	S	E	P	R	I	S	O	N				
I	N	T	E	G	R	A	C	Y	T	E				
D	E	E	C	O	S	I	N	E	B	A	D			

JUST A MINUTE

Synonyms give PAR/SONS and PERK/INS, hosts of JUST A MINUTE; groups of three across answers have no HESITATION (ER removed), no REPETITION (repeated letters removed) and no DEVIATION (letters of SIN removed).

Winner
Lesley Le Marquer, Waterlooville, Hampshire





The owner's favourite room
"Our favourite rooms are the kitchen perfect for spending family time together and the hall for relaxing in. The 'wooden room' is a great space where we can relax in the evening and watch TV. I also particularly like the bar and sports room as it's a great place to play pool and sit at the bar with friends."

FEATURE OSBALDESTON, LANCASHIRE

Truly magnificent

Dating back to 1593 Osbaldeston Hall is a historic Grade II* Listed family home which is immaculately presented to an exceptional standard.

Located in a quiet yet accessible location within the Ribble Valley this beautiful property has extensive and flexible living accommodation within the main hall and across a number of outbuildings, which will appeal to many.

The property was extensively renovated and improved in 2013 with new kitchen, bathrooms, twin central heating boilers and heating system, renovation of all outbuildings. The barns and outbuildings were made safe with turned roofs, new floors, new windows and doors, rewire and security systems.

Rarely do properties of this scale and calibre come to the market and inspection is necessary to fully appreciate what is on offer.

Outside consists of sports centre at one end of the large barn which has extensive storage areas (suitable for indoor pool if desired and subject to planning consent) as well as multiple store rooms and attached shippon/barn used as garaging. Separate five bay garage and storage rooms over two workshops.

At the opposite side of the house is a further open two garage wooden building with storage area for garden machinery, wood store and an outside entertainment area overlooking the River Ribble.

EPC Rating: E
Council Tax Band: H | Tenure Freehold
Contact: 01254 828922
guide price £3,500,000



WEYBRIDGE SURREY
Enjoying a secluded location within the exclusive St George's Hill estate is this exceptional six bedroom residence on Hill House Drive.
EPC: C | Council Tax: H | Tenure: Freehold
Contact: 020 3940 5138 £9,270,000



COLESHILL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
The largest semi-detached home in Bucks. A seven bedroom family home with grand rooms, high ceilings and magnificent views.
EPC: D | Council Tax: H | Tenure: Freehold
Contact: 01494 623266 £2,500,000



CALVERTON BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
Dairy Farm is beautifully positioned in private grounds of approaching half an acre. Having undergone a complete restoration by the current owners.
EPC: D | Council Tax: G | Tenure: Freehold
Contact: 01908 713253 £1,750,000



ST. MARGARETS BAY, DOVER KENT
Stunning, immaculate, breathtaking are just some of the words you could use to describe the spectacular "Skyfall". A contemporary detached house by the sea.
EPC: B | Council Tax: G | Tenure: Freehold
Contact: 01227 479317 £1,750,000



WELLINGBOROUGH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Recently built family house of exceptional quality and designed to have an amazing sense of light and space centred around an open-plan kitchen/dining/family room.
EPC: B | Council Tax: H | Tenure: Freehold
Contact: 01604 309030 £1,550,000



NEW QUAY CEREDIGION
Stunning opportunity to live in a wonderful country home located in a secluded and magical location close to the sought-after resort of New Quay.
EPC: D | Council Tax: F | Tenure: Freehold
Contact: 01974 299055 £1,150,000

GREAT BARFORD BEDFORDSHIRE
River Cottage is an enchanting, Grade II Listed, riverside home, dating back to the 18th Century. Also included is a charming, three bedroom annexe and Timber Cottage.
EPC: E & C | Council Tax: F & B | Tenure: Freehold *guide price*
Contact: 01234 607999 £900,000

FLITTON BEDFORDSHIRE
A five double b

Inside

The Middle East resorts that mimic the Maldives p.25
Stay on the Cotswolds estate loved by A-listers p.27

Travel



ANTONINO BARTUCCIO/4CORNERS IMAGES

See France in all its autumn splendour

Village festivals and vineyard harvests make October and November the best months to pay a visit, says Anthony Peregrine

The French are truly gifted at cheering up the dourest days of the year – traditionally the months of October and November, when summer feels several generations ago, Advent calendars are not yet upon us, and life needs lightening.

English autumn has its moments, of course, what with pumpkins, treacle toffee, fireworks and *Strictly Come Dancing*. But the French are so much more full-blooded about it, tramping out into golden woodland and misty mornings, exchanging shorts for long trousers, the aroma of tanning lotion for the seduction of woodsmoke, fruit juice for red wine and salads for lusty simmered dishes. Cassoulet, daube, beef bourguignon, roast boar and other burly preparations are nature's way of telling us that quinoa will never be sufficient. In Alsace, the *choucroute nouvelle* ("this year's fermented cabbage") and its array of cardiac-arrest pork cuts underline that autumn truly is the season of mellow meatfulness.

In this best of all possible worlds, there is ample activity to justify eating for six when there are only two of you. Join, for instance, basket-toting French foragers fanning out through forests seeking wild mushrooms. Careful, though. You need to know your boletus from your death-cap toadstool or you'll be pushing up mushrooms yourself. Best bet is to get your harvest checked at a nearby chemist – pharmacists are all mycologically qualified – or go with experts, like the forestry commission agents at Jupilles in the Loir (no "e") valley, who will gleefully take you into the Forest of Bercé (carnuta.fr). Francis Salamolard will do the same, with added eating, from the Auberge de l'Atre outside Quarré-les-Tombes in the Morvan bit of Burgundy. Book for Fridays through October into December, and stay there a night or two (doubles from £78 per night; auberge-de-latre.com).

Naturally, forest walking can be rewarding even if you are a mushroom-ophobe. And, happily for those whose early lives were spent squelching through rural Lancashire, it can also be mud-free, notably in the south, where you may even bump into people on the autumn search for truffles.

Cooler capital: with summer's heat gone, relish the 'rich tapestry' of the new season

All this is part of the rich tapestry that constitutes the French autumn – and which bursts through the gloom to celebrate food and drink in boldly convivial festivals across the land. Up on the northern coast, herrings are a focal point. Down south, especially in the Ardèche, it's chestnuts. When life was tougher, chestnuts were staples. Woods were full of *les arbres à pain*, or "bread trees", as the chestnuts were known. Now everyone can afford takeaway pizza, so chestnuts become heritage items to be honoured in

Continued on Page 22

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Continued from Page 21

song, dance, preserves and recipes copied by the newly rustic. General food-based shenanigans break out all over. At the Château du Lude, north of Tours, the Saveurs d'Automne event on October 30 builds fun, games and medieval cooking around autumn produce (lelude.com). Down in Mandelieu-La-Napoule, near Cannes, the Saveurs et Terroir salon brings together around 80 food and drink producers for autumn-borne merriment, from November 18-20 (salon-gastronomie.com).

This is not even the top of the tip of the iceberg. Unlike normal people in autumn, the French don't stay in, curl up and watch TV. (Given the standard of much French TV, this is wise.) They put on jumpers and jackets and stride out across vineyards, forests and mountains. Then they meet up to eat and drink – because eating and drinking is the way they greet every season.

In recent autumns, I've been to veal, turkey and ham festivals. I've missed others devoted to marrows, beans, oysters, andouillette sausage, oysters, cod and much else besides. I've also missed lots of wine and drink festivals. Given the number I have managed to attend, this is just as well. The greatest of these October and November wine fests is the Sarmentelles at Beaujeu, to welcome the arrival of beaujolais nouveau, from November 16-20. And if, incidentally, you think you are too sophisticated for vins nouveaux, you have entirely missed their point.

Other wine events involve vineyard walks, al-fresco tastings and good outside eating. If you are in a wine area, there is bound to be one near you, so check with local tourist offices. And if you are in the Cévennes on October 30, make for the Domaine Quartier Lander at Bagard, near Arles. The Vignes Réboussières festival furnishes the best local wines, food and music with a two-mile stroll through the vines, tasting as you go. It's a cracking Sunday, which I never miss. (£12, tourismegard.co. Full disclosure: the event is organised by my son. There can be no higher recommendation.)

That said, autumn is not only about wine. It is also distillation time for spirits like calvados, cognac and, most appealingly, armagnac in Gascony. Gascons are hard-wired for hard times, berets and festivities. Thus the distillation season from October 13 to the end of January is punctuated by parties around the region under the heading La Flamme de l'Armagnac.

To get the hang of it, head for the Château de Millet in the Gers county. In a landscape of sunlit certainties, Laurence Dèche and her family not only make terrific wines and armagnac but also lay on gîte accommodation (two nights for six people, £242) and, on certain days between November 20 and 28, belting meals in the distillery for £26, wine and armagnac included (check chateaudemillet.com, then book on 00 33 05620 98791 – but be sharp, places sell fast). You will be among around 80 others. Autumn, I promise you, rarely gets better.

Autumn is not only about wine. It is also distillation time for spirits like calvados and cognac



ANNEEMMANUELLETHION; GETTY IMAGES; CAMERA PRESS; ALAMY

➤ Whole bunch of fun: cycle past golden vineyards in Barr, Alsace

THE BEST OF AUTUMN INDULGENCE

Provence

Autumn in Provence is radiant, the softer light and warmth casting a glow over old stones, older landscapes and food festivals in abundance. Around the sentinel Mont Ventoux – it both punishes cyclists and oversees western Provence like an irascible elder – the Ventoux Saveurs festival brings gastronomy-based celebrations to towns and villages in turn, from September 10 through to November 5. Expect open days and entertainment across farms and vineyards, markets, music, dancing and eating (parcduventoux.fr).

Provence is also French truffle HQ, producing way more than the more famous truffières of the Dordogne. Get among it all in Monteux, near Carpentras. From mid-November, the Jaumard family will take you out truffle-seeking with dogs Mirette and Polka.

They will also organise discovery weekends – bed and breakfast in their cosy gîte, and apéritifs and truffling for £292 per couple (00 33 04906 68221; truffes-jaumard.com).

Dieppe

In tougher times, herring kept France's Channel fishing ports afloat. Northern French people don't forget. Nor do they refuse a party: hence herring-inspired festivals up and down the coast, starting in Dieppe from November 19-20. Herring break out big-time – smoked, pickled or grilled on port-side barbecues and served in paper cones. Dieppe simultaneously honours the scallop – no seafood better deserves acclaim. There be music, frolics and the chance of a glass at the Café-des-Tribunaux on Place-du-Puits-Salé where earlier visitors (Turner, Proust, Monet, Oscar Wilde) used to gather. A chance also to visit the market voted France's favourite on a popular TV show in 2020. Nor should the Memorial of August 19 1942 – commemorating the catastrophic Dieppe raid – be missed, especially in this 80th anniversary year of the debacle. It's open afternoons, Friday through Sunday. To stay; try the seafront Hotel de la Plage (doubles from £79; 00 33 2358 41828; laplage-dieppe.com).

Further up the coast, similar herring high jinks enliven Etaples on November 12-13 – during which revellers will eat three tons of herring – and Boulogne the following weekend, when they match the fish with recently-released beaujolais nouveau. In Boulogne, try the Hotel La Matelote, with Tony Lestienne's Michelin-starred restaurant (room-only doubles from £91; 00 33 03213 01797; la-matelote.com). While there, you might flit to the Louvre-Lens museum for a big show commemorating the 200th anniversary of the cracking of Egyptian hieroglyphics by local Egyptologist Jean-François Champollion, September 28-January 16 2023 (permanent show, free; hieroglyphic temporary show, £10; louvrelens.fr).



➤ Taste roasted chestnuts in the Ardèche
➤ See red peppers drying in Espelette

Ardéche mountains

As herring were up north, so chestnuts were tough-time staples across much of the south of France, and notably in the Ardèche mountains, between the Rhône and the Cévennes. Chestnut trees are rooted in both forest and folk memory. That's why, come autumn, 11 different villages put on 11 chestnut festivals on consecutive weekends, Jaujac on October 8 and ending at Joannas on November 12. (Certain villages hold their festivals on the same weekends.) Together, they constitute the Castagnades festival. These are small hill villages having a big time with meals, chestnuts in a dazzling variety of preparations, markets, cooking competitions, fairs, shows, guided chestnut walks and much else besides. If you've never visited the Monts-d'Ardèche, this is the moment. As poet, singer and Ardèche adoptee Jean Ferrat sang: "*que la montagne est belle*". Spot on. The wildness of the terrain fosters a certain toughness of character – but they know how to celebrate. And no one is going to force you to eat the chestnut biscuits. To stay, the local tourist office has Castagnades deals with many hotels: double room, lunch for two and museum entry, for £86 (00 33 04758 90203; castagnades.fr or aubenas-vals.com). Or try the Platanes hotel in Thueyts. Recently renovated, rooms cost from £60 (00 33 04759 37866; hotel-les-platanes.fr).

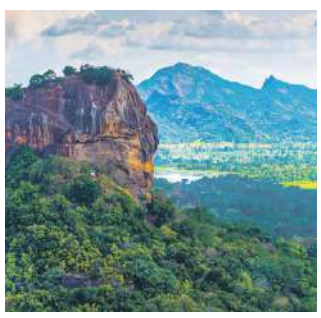
Espelette

Any excuse to go to French Basque country is a good one, so please waste no time in travelling to the village of Espelette, a spot synonymous with peppers. You'll have seen the pictures. In normal times, the white village facades are festooned with strings of the rusty-red peppers hung out to dry, reminding visitors that they are in Europe's bite-sized pepper HQ. On October 29-30,

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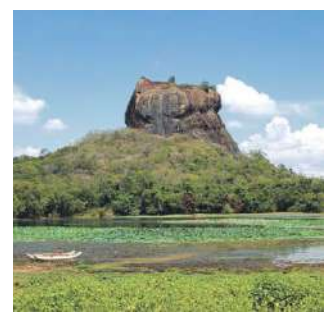
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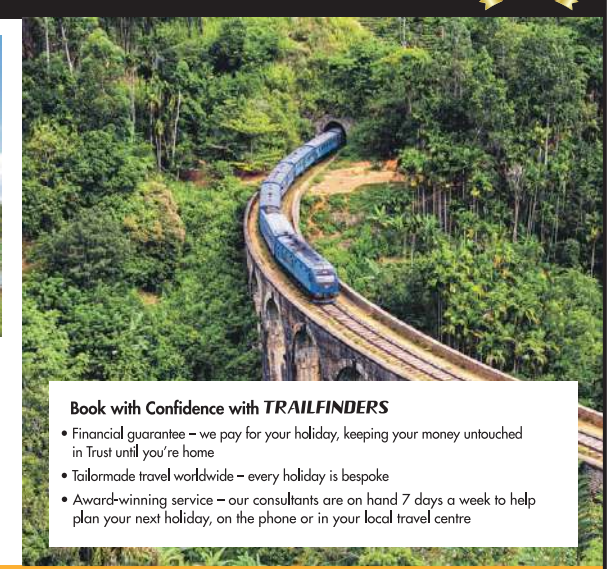
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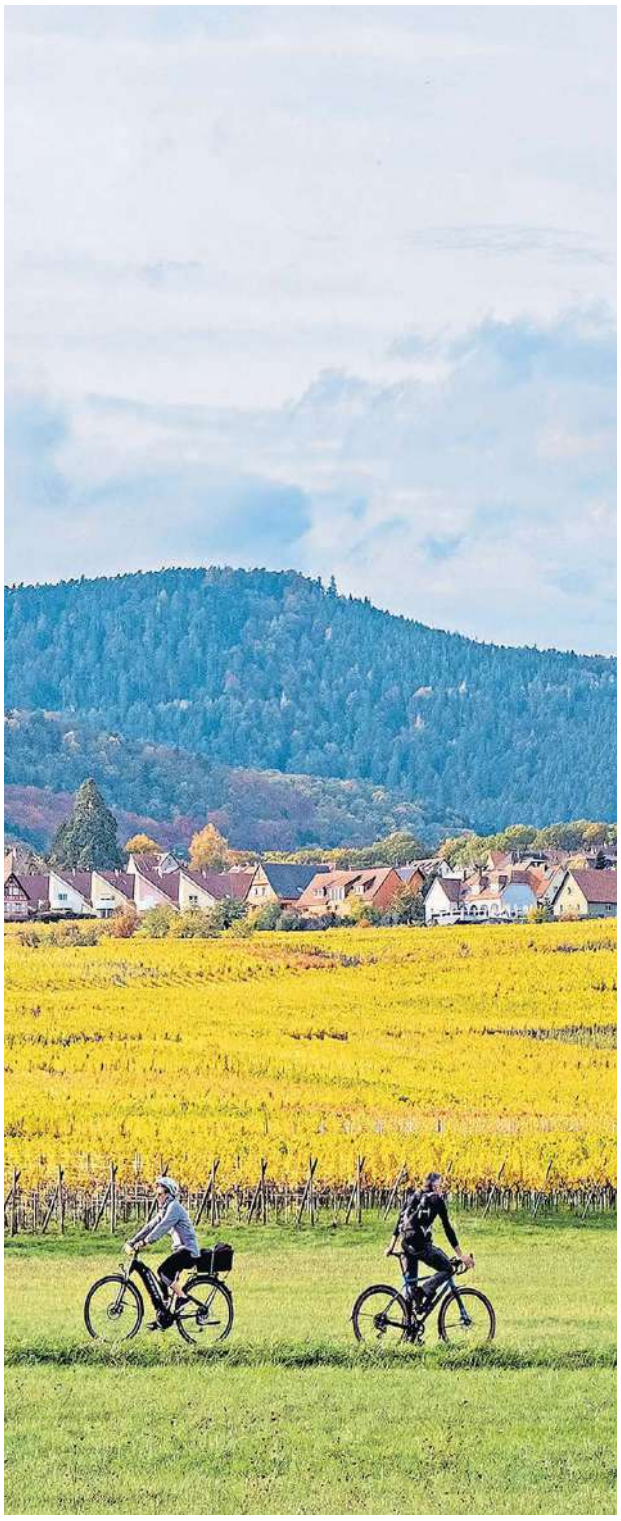
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There are many reasons for going to the Dordogne: wild mushrooms, nuts, wine, truffles, foie gras – and saffron

A GARDEN OF EARTHY DELIGHTS

Mary Lussiana devours the fruits of her labour on a 'green' cookery course in Paris



"What language shall we speak?" I asked in my best French, as Italian chef Simone Zanoni strode to meet me across the marble floor of the Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris, his pink trainers a perfect match for the orchids and carnations that filled the lobby that day.

"We can speak in Italian or French. Anyway, Italians are basically the same as the French, but with a smile," Zanoni chuckled. "Or we can speak English – but, be warned, I learnt my English from Gordon Ramsay, when I worked for him in his Versailles restaurant, so it's a bit strange!"

In English, Zanoni outlined our half-day. Starting in the capital, we would drive out (in a Porsche Panamera Turbo S E-Hybrid) to his kitchen garden in Versailles, collect vegetables from there and return to cook them in his kitchen. At the heart of this experience and, indeed, at the core of everything Zanoni does, is sustainability. This commitment was duly recognised by the Michelin Guide, which awarded his restaurant – Le George, in the Four Seasons Hotel George V – a green Michelin star for sustainability when they were introduced, to join the red star awarded in 2017.

The Domaine de Madame Elisabeth is a stone's throw from the Palace of Versailles and was a gift from Louis XVI to his younger sister. Within its extensive grounds is the nearly 20,000 sq ft kitchen garden of Le George. En route, under clear blue skies, with a chill in the air, we drove past trees turning orange in the autumnal sun.

In the garden, the fruit and vegetables were many and magnificent, fertilised with compost created from food waste from the restaurant, and we walked down grassy avenues between beds of courgettes and ripe red tomatoes, as Zanoni explained what he is trying to do.

"Part of why this is so important to my restaurant is that many of my team grew up in towns and haven't seen how nature works. I get them to come out once a week and gather what we require." Last summer, they met 60 per cent of the kitchen's needs.

I went to work with the instruction to pick a little of what I liked. I passed the first of the autumn pumpkins and purple beets pushing up through the earth, but decided on mint and some aubergines, while Zanoni collected a few raspberries for me to eat on the spot. Radishes – "best served with a glass of champagne," said Zanoni – went into our box, as well as courgettes. The menu had clearly been decided.

Back in Paris with our fingernails filled with soil, we scrubbed up in Le George's gleaming kitchens.

The radishes were to be elevated with lemon vinaigrette. So, armed with freshly squeezed lemon juice, olive and calamansi oil and confit roasted garlic, I whisked up a vinaigrette under the watchful eye of sous-chefs Alessio and Davide. Alessio asked me what kind of pasta I wanted, showing me the different widths on a piece of dough. Tagliolini chosen, he helped me run the pasta dough he had already prepared through the roller. Keeping it long and unbroken with one hand while turning the handle with the other took all my concentration, but before long we were ready to cut it into ribbons of tagliolini.

Davide then set me to work to prepare similar sized ribbons of courgette, while he sautéed some garlic, pounding it into a paste before adding the courgettes and butter. He kept up a running philosophical commentary in Italian as he did so, most of which went over my head, but I did understand "cooking comes from the heart", as aromas of vegetable bouillon and garlic rose into the air. I put the pasta in to cook, hoping I would be guided as to when it became *al dente*.

Participants pick vegetables in the Domaine de Madame Elisabeth in Versailles...
... then make pasta in Paris



It might seem odd, given how much this experience costs, to eat it in the surroundings of the kitchen rather than the lavish restaurant, but actually it was all part of the fun. For a foodie, special birthday presents don't get much better than this: time learning dishes at the elbow of a chef who has won Michelin stars, a delectable meal and a lesson on sustainability in the kitchen. I settled down at the gleaming counter.

A few minutes later, our lunch from the garden was ready. First, taking a sip of champagne, I tried the radishes, glossy with lemon vinaigrette. Exquisite. I looked at Zanoni with a newfound respect as he lifted the tagliolini from the heavy saucepan and curled it delicately into a tower with his tongs. Buttery ribbons of courgettes were woven through. It was a triumph.

Mindful that any waste would benefit the sun-dappled kitchen garden, I considered not finishing my plate – but after all the hard work I had put in, I felt I deserved every mouthful.

The Get Grounded with Le George experience costs £1,227 and is open to guests of the Four Seasons Hotel George V, where doubles cost from £1,972 including breakfast (00 331 4952 7000; fourseasons.com)



they kick out the jambs with processions, concerts, meals, tastings of peppers in everything from mustard through chocolate to gin – and, on Sunday, a mass during which peppers are blessed. It's wonderful.

The Dordogne

There are many gastronomic reasons for going to the Dordogne in autumn – wild mushrooms, nuts, wine, truffles, foie gras – but you'd probably not have thought of saffron. Perhaps you should. The world's priciest spice was once a traditional crop here. Now the necessary crocus flourishes again at, among other places, Le Monde du Safran at St Geniès, near Sarlat. The crocus flowers when the earth cools in October, so that's when it is harvested. And that's when you might visit, to experience the harvest and transformation of the expensive little item into jellies, jams, mustards and much else besides. The De Backer family will put you up in on-site gîtes (from £60 a night; 00 33 06754 14564; lemondedusafran.com).

If that doesn't suit, or is full, head for the Dix restaurant in Ste Alvère, where young French chef Raphaël was last year named one of France's most promising by the Gault & Millau guide (mains from £19; B&B from £107; 00 33 05536 17883; dixdordogne.com).

Loire Valley

The Loire valley is routinely – probably rightly – referred to as "the garden of France". Certainly, it contains some of the country's loveliest gardens. My favourites, maybe the most enchanting of all, are those surrounding the Château de Rivau at Lémeré, near Chinon. They aren't the biggest or the most famous, but they're playful (look out for wellington boots the size of a small shed), innovative, creative and as beguilingly various as gardens can be. Products of the imagination of château owner Patricia Laigneau, they may be appreciated any time, but especially on the weekend of October 22-23. Then the château hosts the Festival of Autumn Flowers – with music, magic, local producer stands, floral workshops and the garden at their autumn loveliest. There's a good restaurant on site – the château has its own fruit, veg and wine – plus plush château guest rooms (from £145 B&B; chateaudurivau.com).

Should you be in the Loire Valley and a gardening enthusiast, there are other options. The annual garden festival at the Château de Chaumont runs to November 6. Look out for 30 different temporary gardens from 30 different creators, all on the theme, this year, of the Ideal Garden (domaine-chaumont.fr). Meanwhile, what may be the most famous of all Loire Valley gardens – the ultra-formal spread at the Château de Villandry – holds its vegetable garden days on September 24-25. On-site gardeners will answer all your veg questions. There will be stands and exhibitions and you may, as always at Villandry, study how horticulture is performed in that strict French manner which insists that nature be bent to man's wishes (chateauvillandry.fr).



Abjat-sur-Bandiat

You want to play conkers against the very best? Go to Abjat, in the northernmost part of the Dordogne. The tiny village (population 620) is French conker HQ by dint of the fact that it is the only place where the game is played in a country otherwise, and distressingly, ignorant of the pursuit. You can play a game at pretty much any point in the season – just nip to the Entente Cordiale café and ask – but the big day this year is October 1. Show up around 1pm, register for £1.70, and take your place among some 250 other competitors for the title of Conker Champion of France.

Naturally, folk travel from a large area of France but also from Britain and Ireland. Simultaneously, the village hosts an antiques and car boot sale with some 90 stands. Later shenanigans continue, to a rock concert accompaniment, around the Entente Cordiale.

The following day, the neighbouring village of St-Saud-Lacoussière welcomes those still in need of conviviality with the sort of festival that only the French could devise: the Festival of Cep Mushrooms and Milk-Fed Veal. The day affords ample opportunities to consume veal – and what are claimed to be the best ceps in France prepared in a monster omelette, plus the necessary wines – to the accompaniment of music, dancing and other outbreaks of folklore. Conkers, ceps and veal make for a most agreeable weekend.

But you will need to sleep at some point. L'Auberge has double rooms from £60 B&B (aubergeabjat.com), while at St Saud – just five miles from Abjat – you might try Le Sully, a friendly two-star with decent restaurant (doubles from £60, dinner from £13.50; le-sully-en-perigord.fr). If pushing out *le bateau*, consider the Hostellerie Saint Jacques across the village, a good-looking spot with a first-rate restaurant (doubles from £85, three-course dinner £34; hostellerie-saint-jacques.com).

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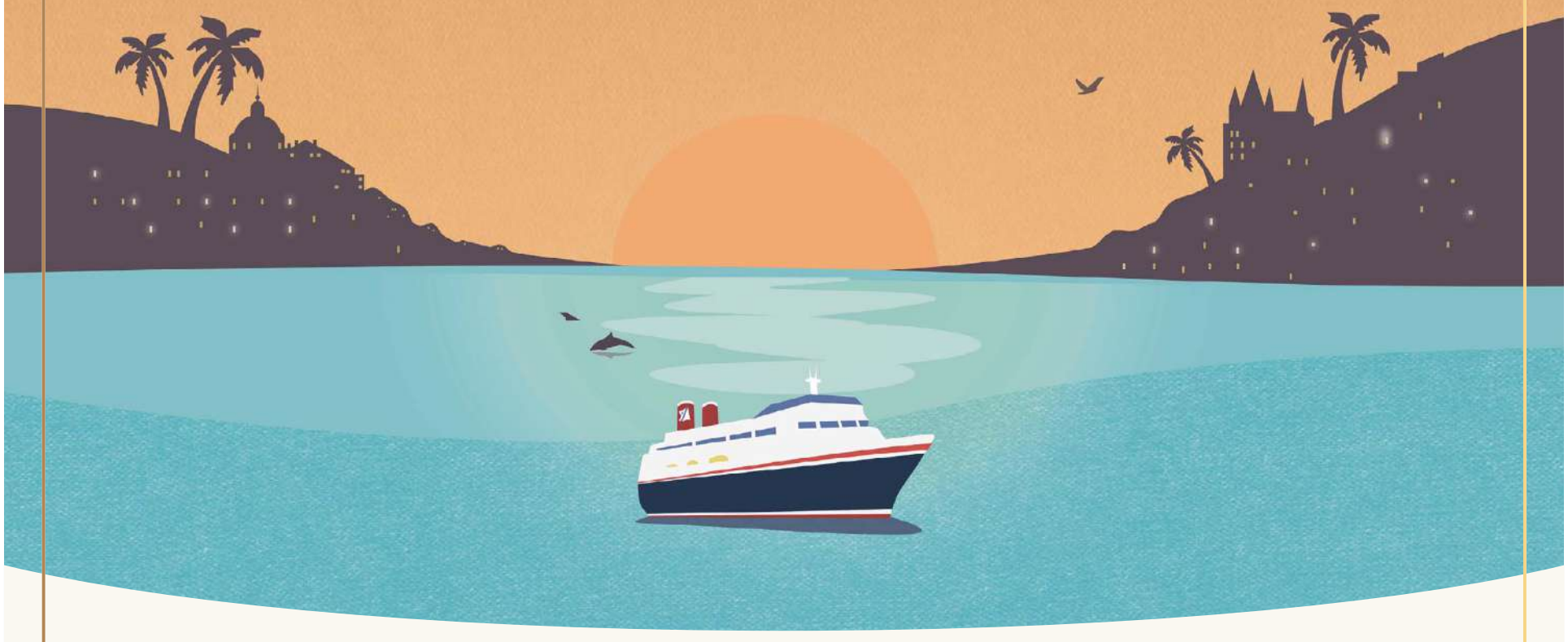
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Get a taste of the Maldives in Doha or Dubai

Over-water villas, thatched suites, ocean-view pools... the familiar formula has been transplanted four hours closer to the UK – and Hazel Plush is a fan



I had lost my shoes. Somewhere on the island, there was a lone pair of silver, pointy-toed pumps with a glittery trim – a ridiculous choice for the beach, I'll admit, and even more useless now. Had I left them under my sunlounger, their soft suede freckled with sand? Or abandoned them in the shade of a frangipani tree, kicked off when I stopped for a Häagen-Dazs? With a sigh, I scooped up my bag and headed for the path: time to retrace my steps, barefoot.

In Qatar, one never loses one's shoes. And one certainly doesn't slip them off absent-mindedly, during a day of cabana lazing, pool dipping and coconut sipping. The Gulf is, after all, a region of great sky-piercing architecture, unfathomable wealth and bombastic superlatives: biggest, fastest, priciest, etc. Beachiest, it is not. And yet here I was, on a tiny island that could have been plucked from the Maldives, living the archipelago's "no shoes, no news" motto – but just 30 minutes from Doha, Qatar's unstoppable capital.

British holidaymakers love the Maldives: almost one million of us visit every year. But on a per capita basis, few nations adore the archipelago more than travellers from the Gulf, who nip over even on weekends, escaping from the cities of Dubai, Doha or Abu Dhabi to some far-flung dot on the map.

But when you have the wealth of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, why fly for four or five hours – plus the inevitable seaplane or speedboat transfer – when you can build an island resort on your doorstep? And so Maldives-style retreats are popping up throughout the region, their over-water villas lapped by Listerine-blue waters, alongside private pools, spa villages and ritzy beach restaurants.

"This is where I flee when life gets hectic," confided a German expat businesswoman at Anantara Banana Island Doha, one such resort. We were chatting in the infinity pool, admiring its views of the wide, white-sand beach. "I have visited the Maldives many times, but here I'm just 45 minutes from home," she laughed. "What's not to love?" It is good news for sun-seeking Britons, too: in theory, paradise is now at least four hours closer. But can the Middle East match the real deal?

The Anantara hotel group is leading the charge, with two private-island properties off the coast of Dubai and Doha – both offering abundant Maldivian-style trappings. Boduberu drums on arrival? Check. Thatched-roof suites with ocean-view pools? Absolutely. Moonlit dining on the sand, beneath a billowing white cabana? You bet.

In the UAE, Anantara World Islands Dubai Resort opened in December 2021, a 35-minute speedboat ride from the city. It is the first hotel on the man-made World Islands archipelago, whose islands are shaped – albeit laughably loosely – like different countries. The hotel sits on the sandy sliver of "Argentina", an isle owned by one of the development's original stakeholders, who still lives here in a sprawling villa. He is a bird lover, and his troupe of peacocks strut on the sand, flashing their feathers as if to upstage the guests' Versace bikinis and Dior sunglasses.

"We have the spirit of Dubai, but the beauty of an island," the general manager, James Hewitson, enthused to me over lunch. "Though this is no ordinary island resort, of course: Gulf travellers are the most discerning in the world." From the beach, you can see the Burj Khalifa's 160-storey spire shimmering in the sun; at night it blazes, a beacon of unimaginable prosperity.

In Qatar, I had predicted a similar atmosphere at Anantara Banana Island Resort Doha – hence my flashy footwear. Speaking of which, my search had been fruitless, so I did what any modern castaway would do: I contacted Pradeep, my "villa host", on WhatsApp. A paragon of patience, he joined me in the shoe-hunt, searching the poolside, the bike-rental hut, the beach grill – before returning triumphant from the giant chess set (where else?) with posh pumps in hand. Apologising profusely, I tucked them into my suitcase, and slipped on some flip-flops instead.

You see, despite being even wealthier than the UAE, Qatar is markedly less ostentatious. Yes, it has a ludicrous skyline of glass towers and mega-malls, but it is far more conservative, valuing privacy and discretion just as much as luxury. For me, Anantara's Banana Island – named for its shape – was the finale of a busy Doha trip.

The city, a 30-minute boat transfer away, has many captivating cultural institutions, such as the Jean Nouvel-designed National Museum and the Museum of Islamic Art, which will relaunch in October. Remarkably for a Gulf nation, Doha also has an entire museum dedicated to the topic of slavery: Bin Jelmood House, which explores its global legacy as well as the Gulf's historical reliance on it. It is more frank, and self-reflective, than any other museum I have encountered in the region – or, indeed, in the Maldives.

As for sustainability, no private island resort could be classed as a wholly eco-conscious choice, yet progress is heartening: Anantara World Islands is almost entirely free of single-use plastics, grows copious amounts of vegetables in a huge kitchen garden, and purifies its own drinking water. And the shorter flight certainly yields less carbon.

The Middle East also has a lower room rate than its sparring partner: a B&B sea-view room at Anantara's Dubai resort is priced from £181 per night, or £340 for a junior suite – while Doha's comparative prices are £347 and £403 respectively. Meanwhile at Anantara's Dhigu Maldives Resort, you will pay at least £425 per night, or £517 in its Veli Maldives Resort, though the accommodation is larger.

However, the Gulf region does fall short in other respects. It could never match the Indian Ocean's wealth of marine life, nor its vibrant reefs and wrecks. And don't expect edge-of-the-world sea views: here, they are enlivened by distant skyscrapers, yachts and (in Doha's case) planes from the nearby airport. Nor can the Middle East achieve that wild, jungly nature of many Maldivian resorts, thanks to its scorching summers, though October to March brings pleasant temperatures in the high 20s Celsius.

Couples should be mindful of the Gulf's varying tolerance of public canoodling. In its resorts, Dubai turns a blind eye (though no heavy petting in the pool), while PDAs are entirely off-limits in Qatar. Alcohol is readily served in the former's hotel bars, while Banana Island is entirely booze-free. For many, that may be a deal breaker; for me, it was a welcome chance to detox.

So I can't blame the cocktails for my forgetfulness, nor my poolside naps and dawdling beach walks. No, that was all good old fly-and-flop reverie. For pure island escapism, the Middle East isn't quite the real deal, but it is near enough for a decadent, sun-baked retreat. I haven't felt like that since, well, the Maldives.



'Maldivian-style trappings': privacy is guaranteed at Anantara World Islands in Dubai...

... as is dinner with a view at Qamar, one of its restaurants



Déjà vu? An over-water villa at Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara



Essentials

Premier Holidays (0844 493 7531; premierholidays.co.uk) offers four nights at Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara for £1,099 per person, based on a February departure and two sharing a Premier Sea View Room, including breakfast, and return flights from London Heathrow with Qatar Airways (qatarairways.com)

Value Added Travel (0800 610 1522; valueaddedtravel.com) offers five nights at Anantara World Islands Dubai Resort from £1,419 per person, based a December departure and two sharing an Ocean View Room, including breakfast and return flights from London Heathrow with Emirates (emirates.com)

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The Lakes by Yoo
Live like a Cotswolds A-lister



With interiors styled by Kate Moss and Jade Jagger, this design-led development dazzles. Hattie Garlick checks in



All Yoo need: each of the three-bedroom apartments has its own Lakeview balcony

The Lakes by Yoo comprises 850 acres of manicured woodland and meadow in which 180 privately owned, timber-clad, glass-fronted mansions sit on the banks of 10 lakes. The resort was co-created by superstar designer Philippe Starck. Interiors are handled by "design partners" including Jade Jagger and Kate Moss. Residents paddleboard to the neighbour's for sundowners.

Unlike me, they don't arrive directly from a dusty festival, with shrubs seemingly seeding in their eight-year-old's hair, having hailed a taxi that turns out to be a rusting mini-van with jammed windows, no air-conditioning, and bits hanging off.

I can explain. The resort has just launched a collection of three-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom cabins that circle a freshly dug lake and are bookable from £995 a night. Perfect for a big family occasion (take an apartment or two, add a cabin…) and mine has one to celebrate – my mother is turning 70. She is a cold-water fanatic and you can swim in any lake here freely. She is also, however, a formidable critic, taking an assassin's aim at the banal or pretentious. If the Lakes turn out to be Center Parcs for snobs, we are in deep water.

First appearances are not reassuring. The new apartment building has a grey and glitzy entrance hall that belongs to a serviced apartment block in some financial district, not the bucolic Cotswolds. Granny casts an appraising eye over the apartment. Everyone holds their breath. She gives a begrudging nod and we all exhale thankfully.

In here, all trace of Wall Street has been excised. There is a beautiful, minimalist woodburner. Modernist lighting and furniture is broken up with characterful antique pieces. Granny is impressed by the colours (warm ochres, harissa reds); art (modern abstracts, still-life oils, tapestries) and books (Patti Smith's autobiography, Penguin Classics, modern art catalogues).

The only chink our veteran critic spots is the strange selection of pans – one big enough to boil a lobster, but nothing for a more realistic egg. In the bathroom she notes an absence of conditioner, hand cream and an iron.

None of us can work up much righteous indignation, though, amid such opulence. Each of the three bedrooms is like a small wing, with a private balcony and a cabinet-lined corridor leading to an en-suite bathroom. A shared living area leads to a larger Lakeview balcony.

My mum is a fierce critic. If the Lakes turn out to be Center Parcs for snobs, we are in deep water

The estate manager whisks me in a gleaming Land Rover past tennis courts, cricket and golf nets, a clay pigeon-shooting meadow, a vast indoor pool, a playground, a chi-chi café inside a teepee, a kids' club and a folly farm that houses some token (and terribly lucky) rescued pigs, goats and chickens. The idea is modern-day *Swallows and Amazons*, she says. Families with young children buy into the resort, or grandparents hosting grandchildren. You may need a hedge fund to explore these hedgerows – but I see her point. There is a 5mph speed limit and children really are free to roam. The eight- and 11-year-olds paddle across a lake in a canoe, Granny swims for hours in the cool water and I inhale the picnic delivered to us, waterside (along with beanbags and a broad parasol).

Less wild, more pampered options abound. The kids have a private, two-hour supervised session on a wildly complex climbing tower and treetop trapeze, culminating in a zip-wire ride across a lake. Granny demurs, but delights in the indoor pool and spa.

The Lakes has pilfered one of Britain's best general managers, Andrew Cook, from Chewton Glen, and discovered Lucy – a guest experience genius, with a team on WhatsApp to conjure all desires instantaneously. You want housekeeping? Mixologist? Car valet? A Fab ice lolly? Voila! To mark Granny's big day, chef Jessica cooks in our apartment. A former nanny to the super-rich, she prepares perfect sushi and chateaubriand while simultaneously running a "Cotswolds cook-off" between the children, leaving Granny and I free to toast her birthday on the balcony.

The view is still a little raw. Building work is only just ending on the other apartments and cabins, so best book from November for an unmarred view. *Swallows and Amazons* it isn't – quite. But a spectacular 70th? Absolutely.

Three-bedroom apartments sleeping six from £1,050 a night. Private chef from £300. Zip-wire and climbing £330 for two hours and up to six people

THE LAKES BY YOO *Cotswolds*

9/10

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EDUCATION & SCHOOLING

With the school year underway, now is a good time to think about supporting your child ahead of their next step. From new schools and revision techniques to tutors and applying for student accommodation, we've rounded up services to help you navigate your child's education, whether they're seven or 17.





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● Rookwood School is a co-educational day and boarding school for ages two to 18 in Andover, Hampshire.
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LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING

A Sydenham High School education is about so much more than excellent sets of examination results
A lifelong love of learning is fostered through Sydenham High's tailor-made enrichment opportunities, such as its bespoke Lecture Series, Socrates Programme, Plato Programme and #700STEMChallenge. Pupils revel in the opportunity to perform in productions, concerts or showcasing work in pop-up exhibitions. Model United Nations, Mock Trial competitions and One Voice prepare pupils to research and present on a variety of topics. Curioso Week, business and enterprise opportunities and a broad range of career events ensure that pupils know that nothing is out of reach with a little hard work.



Alumnae have gone on to become climate change consultants, doctors, authors, scientists, artists, Grammy Award-winning musicians and even a horse-racing icon. They value remaining true to themselves even if that means going against the grain. There's an instilled belief that pupils can do whatever they put their minds to, but they recognise that it's not just about them. They have a duty to the wider community and those connections are as strong and important as they've ever been, with regular charity fundraising, foodbank donations and volunteering.

Ready to call out inequality or injustice in whatever form it may present itself, pupils have strong moral compasses, and are accepting and respectful of themselves and others. There's no mould for a Sydenham High pupil and that's what makes the school so special. It's a fitting tribute that the school has been shortlisted for seven Independent School of the Year Awards for 2022 in recognition of all that goes on in its community.

● Discover more by visiting the school this autumn: *sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net/admissions/open-events-taster-days*
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● Gordon's School, Bagshot Road, Surrey Heath GU24 9PT
T: 01276 858084* — for open events, visit *gordons.school



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● SYNKii is compatible with all devices and the team will be more than happy to assist with your journey. Join them for a free trial and explore the flexibility of the SYNKii classroom.
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ACHIEVE EXAM SUCCESS WITH ISEB

ISEB's innovations improve assessment experiences for those taking Common Entrance and Common Pre-Tests exams
The Independent Schools Exam Board is renowned for its Common Entrance (CE), created in 1903. But, with a new CEO and digital strategy, the board now delivers revision support and an accessible exam experience for you and your child. ISEB's new online shop is now the only place to find their past papers and it's easier than ever to order CE Exam Packs to help your child prepare for their 11+ or 13+.

Learn more about the independent school experience in the new ISEB Families Hub. You'll discover a growing treasure trove of articles from leading school heads and education experts providing essential assessment preparation tips and advice. Explore exam guides and revision tools for you and your child.

This month, ISEB launched the new digital Common Pre-Tests with edtech partners CENTURY Tech. Delivered on a leading-edge AI assessment platform, they have developed adaptive tests with leading academics and neuroscientists. The platform combines AI and neuroscience to support candidates even further by giving them control over their test experience, such as adjustable screen colour and font size. A shared set of values around assessment design grounded in science and wellbeing has seen ISEB and CENTURY Tech commission research from Russell Group universities, the results of which will inform future developments. ISEB is also beginning to add further assessment and exam support and wellbeing resources from other leading names in education. Discover more about the future of assessment and access the free support and advice ISEB offers you and your child in the Families Hub.

● Support your child's assessment journey. Visit ISEB's Families Hub and register to receive free exam practice, revision and preparation advice and materials.
iseb.co.uk/families-hub







STUDY COACH NOT REQUIRED

Be your own coach with the Student Life Diary for the perfect balance between academic commitments and personal goals
As a student, a good planner should help you stay on track and focused not only in your studies, but also in terms of self-care and creativity. The week-to-view Student Life Diary puts you back in control of how you organise all parts of your life, from classes and projects to emotions and wellness habits. It's structured to bring a sense of agency to your planning all-round, helping you find balance and make deliberate decisions regarding your time.

Designed to revolve around you, the Student Life Diary is your confidant and your coach — both in and out of the classroom. It reflects your life back at you so you can always find the right way forward.

Offering both monthly and weekly planning
Dated from July to June, each month begins with a two-page spread showing the entire month at a glance. This is followed by a week to view across two pages for more detailed planning.

A classroom companion
Academic pages are structured to document your class timetable, courses, professors and grades. There's also space to record eight different projects or assignments.

Track your habits and be creative
Each monthly section opens with a habit tracker: a customisable wheel with space for up to seven habits that you want to maintain each day. Map your creativity, mood and emotions with a separate weekly tracker.

As well as tracking your life as it happens and planning into the future, this diary also lets you look back on what you've done. Over the school year, its pages become a beautiful handwritten record of academic achievements and personal growth.

● Discover the Student Life Diary
moleskine.com/engb/shop/planners/academic-diary

MOLESCKINE

WELCOME TO PRIOR PARK COLLEGE

This is a school that 'inspires esteem and affection in equal measure', said the Good Schools Guide
Prior Park College is an independent, co-educational day and boarding senior school that overlooks the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath. The College offers its 600 students wonderful opportunities to develop their strengths through inspirational teaching and excellent facilities.

At Prior Park, every child is known, valued and given room to flourish. It's a school that cares, and one where children can find out what matters to them.

The school's primary aim is to provide a genuine all-round education and while academic endeavour remains at the school's core, Prior Park encourages its students to embrace all the opportunities on offer: acting and singing in first-class performances; competing for their team or House; producing impressive works in art and design; leading its charity work.

Boarding at Prior is a life-enhancing experience, where students benefit from being able to develop strong and lasting friendships, as well as their independence, in a home-from-home environment.

Prior Park is a school where creativity is valued. It looks to challenge students to be the best, and truest, versions of themselves, and the school provides this challenge in a caring and supportive way. Students emerge with a character that's well rounded, and an academic profile that allows them to make their next step in life with confidence — whatever that step might be. It's a school where your family will find a warm welcome and where your children will grow into capable, confident and compassionate adults.

Prior Park College



● Discover what makes Prior Park College such a special place to study at the open morning on Saturday 24 September, from 9:30am. Register at *priorparkcollege.com*

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A TRULY REMARKABLE SCHOOL

Set in an enviable location in 100 acres of lawns, lakes and woodland in the New Forest, few prep schools can match Walhampton's setting

Described as 'Excellent in all areas' by the latest Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) report (2018), Walhampton is a 'radical traditional' prep school that believes in focusing on the whole child and instilling a joy in learning that's lifelong.

From September this year, Walhampton is beginning its new reimagined learner journey for boys and girls aged two to 13. The new curriculum framework nurtures curiosity and global thinking fit for a 21st-century education, to develop resilient learners able to take on the challenges of the future.

The Walhampton Express escorted train service, flexible and full-time boarding options make this an accessible country school for families living in London, too.

● **Autumn open mornings: 23 Sept for Pre Prep and 7 Oct for Prep Contact the Registrar to arrange a personal invitation or book a private tour:** ***E: registrar@walhampton.com T: 01590 613303 walhampton.com***

Walhampton

INTRODUCTION TO BRYANSTON

Bryanston is a place where children learn to love their minds, free their spirits and find their mission

Bryanston develops well-balanced young minds, ready to go out into the world, to lead happy and fulfilling lives and to contribute positively and generously.

Founded in 1928, Bryanston is a leading co-educational boarding and day school for pupils aged three to 18. Set in 400 acres of Dorset countryside, the school offers more than 100 different extra-curricular activities, with something to inspire and engage every child outside the classroom.

Alongside high academic standards and expectations, Bryanston provides an emotionally and intellectually supportive environment, allowing pupils to develop independent, creative and unbounded thinking. The school encourages innovation in all areas of the curriculum, passionately believing that it's not what you learn, it's how you learn.





Together with Bryanston Prep, a shared philosophy of 'The Bryanston Method,' matches each pupil carefully to a tutor, enabling the development of purposeful, curious and well-rounded individuals.

Bryanston's outstanding one-to-one tutorial system enables tutors to develop a mutual and deep form of understanding and trust with pupils. One-to-one tutoring starts in Year 6 at Bryanston Prep, as the school begins to equip pupils with the skills they need to become independent learners.

The school is committed to breadth and stretch both within the academic sphere and beyond, encouraging its pupils to look further to enhance their personal development and prepare for life beyond the school. Of course, academic results are important, but Bryanston also cares about what each pupil gains from their time — the success of their experience and the value that Bryanston gives them — along with the destinations they head to after they leave the school and the lives they lead beyond that.

Relationships at Bryanston are different from the conventional dynamics of pupil and teacher, and the school's culture fosters an open-minded, challenging and inspiring environment for personal growth, where a space is provided for pupils to find their passions.

● **Bryanston School, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 0PX** ***E: admissions@bryanston.co.uk T: 01258 484633***

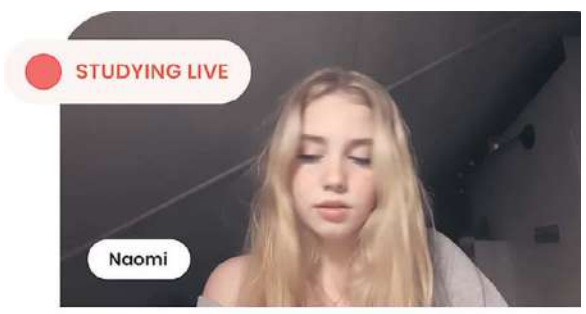


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● **Interested in learning more? Chat with an advisor, request a call or send a message via the Novel website at** ***novelstudent.com***





WORLD'S LARGEST VIRTUAL STUDY ROOMS

Four million students from more than 190 countries have used StudyStream to become more productive and get better grades

StudyStream users have access to free digital tools and a community that supports them to stay focused and motivated while they study. StudyStream is backed by prominent investors such as Y Combinator (a leading Silicon Valley accelerator), Ali Abdaal (a productivity YouTuber) and Ilkay Gundogan (the Manchester City footballer).

Since launching in 2020, StudyStream has helped students complete a total of 17.5 million study hours and 8.8 million sessions. StudyStream content has been viewed more than 300 million times on social media.

Students can join virtual study rooms with others from around the world, 24/7. They're able to see others working, in a similar atmosphere to the one you might find in a library or cafe. This utilises the psychology of mimicry; it's easier to do something difficult when you see others doing it. Students have successfully used this methodology to help them revise for exams, complete daily homework assignments and prepare for interviews.

Alongside the virtual study rooms, students have access to tools such as productivity timers, notes and a task manager to help them make the most of their session. They can also join the vibrant community of students from around the world who are available to help with study tips, exam information, university applications and job interviews.

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"I wouldn't be a nurse right now if it wasn't for you." - 1st Year Registered Nurse.

"Honestly this place is such a blessing. I was in search of such a place to study, to increase focus and productivity and got blessed with this!! You're all making a big difference to our world!" - 2nd Year University Student.

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PUTTING GIRLS FIRST

Why the case for girls-only education continues to strengthen in a co-educational world

Sceptics of single-sex education sometimes refer to a 'co-educational society': the world, they say, is co-ed — isn't that how school should be? It's a question that parents sometimes ask of Will le Fleming, head of The Abbey School in Reading — a leading academic girls' school of over 1,000 pupils. "Most of the families we meet are fully signed up to single-sex," he says. "But sometimes parents want reassurance about how a girls' only environment prepares students for the world beyond."

The question itself needs a second look. "I'm not sure you can call the world co-educational. It certainly isn't co-equal. And that inequality plays out in school settings, too," adds Will.

One way such inequality is manifested is in simple numbers. Across the independent co-educational sector, girls are in the minority: 45% to 55%. On top of that, research suggests that boys may absorb up to 30% more teaching time in a co-ed classroom.

"For 30 years straight, we've had a pernicious situation where girls are simultaneously outperforming boys in assessment while not being given an equal voice in the classroom. Essentially working harder and doing better but with less acknowledgement," notes Will.

At The Abbey, one of the country's foremost independent girls' schools from 3-18, there's a clear belief in a girls' only narrative that isn't about the segregation but the celebration of gender. That starts at the age of three in the nursery. From the beginning, there's freedom from gendered expectation.

In the 'co-ed world', there can be an expectation that girls need to raise their voice to be heard. It sets a tone of negative expectation: that unless they do, no-one will listen.

"For us, the best way to ensure girls' voices are heard is for them to grow and develop in an environment where that happens as a matter of right," Will explains. "We see the result of that at 18.

"The idea of limitation is absurd. Girls who've lived with and experienced that freedom, that respect, that sense of limitless potential — well, that's the way they go out into the world."

With data suggesting this confidence stays with them — studies have shown that students from a girls' only background continue to be more assertive in mixed company — it seems the case for single-sex as preparation for a more co-equal future remains as strong as ever.

● **To learn more about The Abbey, register for one of the school's open events at** ***theabbey.co.uk/events***

The Abbey











SOMETHING SPECIAL IS HAPPENING AT GODSTOWE

Nestled in 12 acres of leafy Buckinghamshire, Godstowe has been a staple in the High Wycombe skyline for more than 120 years

Founded by two women, who then went on to establish a leading Independent senior school, the school's ethos of happy, confident and successful couldn't be more true today.

Godstowe is a leading prep school for girls from ages three to 13 and boys from three to seven. Girls can board from Year 3 and many travel from all over the world to benefit from the excellent education. Teachers in the Main School are secondary school trained, which provides the girls with experienced subject teachers from a younger age than most. Art, DT, modern languages, specialist sport coaching and music teachers play a key role in ensuring the girls that leave Godstowe at 13 are well rounded, many going on to their chosen secondary schools with scholarships in those subjects, as well as computing and drama.

And it's the benefit of the Common Entrance curriculum that the staff teach that encourages the girls to stay until 13. Fiona Reynolds, deputy head for pupil development, says: "We see a huge change in girls who stay for Year 7 and 8, not just in maturity but also in self-awareness. With positions of responsibility around the school, and with the same opportunities as if they were at a senior school, they're in an environment with teaching staff and friends where they're comfortable and therefore thrive. When they leave Godstowe, they're happy and confident young women."

New headmistress Kate Bailey says that the opportunity for the girls to stay until 13 is one of the main reasons she was attracted to the school in the first place. Kate says: "The chance for our girls to stay until Year 8 as either full or flexi boarders or day girls allows them to enjoy an exceptional final two years where they can develop and grow their leadership skills, their friendships and their confidence for all that life beyond Godstowe has to offer".

● **To find out more, visit** ***godstowe.org*** **— Godstowe's next open day is on Saturday 5 November; simply register via the website**

A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT TO GROW UP IN

Collège du Léman, in the heart of Europe, between the Swiss Alps and Lake Geneva, offers a green vibrant campus with welcoming surroundings

Students are offered multiple choices in the curriculum, enabling them to follow a personalised learning path. Its RISE values of Respect, Internationalism, team Spirit and Excellence, unite a community with over 110 nationalities among students and 35 nationalities among teachers. There are three streams (Bilingual, Anglophone, and Francophone) and the possibility of completing various diplomas in English or in French: International Baccalaureate, American High School Diploma, IGCSE, Swiss Maturité and French Baccalauréat.





A unique boarding experience

"The school offers a structured, warm, diverse, and down-to-earth environment in which students can grow into confident young adults. The Collège du Léman (CDL) team is genuinely caring and always committed to provide boarding students with a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will shape them for life," testifies Justin Usher, director of boarding. CDL welcomes boarding students from eight years old. The CDL boarding community is a family in which students from all over the world can get to know each other. The richness in their community is an integral part of their core values. The CDL team takes time to really know the students, to understand their needs, to value them as individuals. They care deeply about their wellbeing; they're mentors and counsellors. They're available around the clock for any need (emotional, academic or practical). And because parents are at the heart of their child's education, they learn through the weekly wellbeing bulletin about their children's emotional balance, exercise and sleeping habits, as well as their joy and motivation. To complete this unique experience, Collège du Léman offers more than 100 extracurricular activities, regular weekend trips and holiday excursions. Students can follow existing hobbies or explore new adventures. From sailing to mountain activities or photography courses, they propose a variety of activities all year long. These experiences are central to boarding life and allow students to learn new things while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

● **Find out more at** ***cdl.ch*****, or get in touch.** ***E: admissions@cdl.ch T: +41 22 775 56 56.*** **Join our next virtual open house on 2 November at 10am and 5pm Swiss time. Register online. Collège du Léman, Rte de Sauverny 74, 1290 Versoix, Switzerland**

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The Telegraph Cookbook

FEATURING

DIANA HENRY





Transform store-cupboard ingredients, extend your midweek repertoire and whip up crowd-pleasers with ease. Discover more of Diana Henry's delicious yet down-to-earth dishes in Cookbook.

Plus enjoy extra helpings of inspiration in Food, the brilliant pullout in The Telegraph's Saturday Magazine.

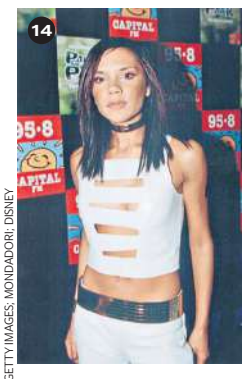
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Andrew Baker

The Sunday family quiz















ALAMY STOCK PHOTO: MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; MONDADORI; DISNEY

Like a conversation around the table, the Family Quiz follows a thread and everyone can join in. By no means do all the pictures refer to the correct answers. Some questions suit younger quizzers, but really it's a free-for-all. Don't all shout at once!

Good question for younger quizzers



1 On this date in 1066 an invading force landed on British soil, at the mouth of the Humber river, to challenge the rule of King Harold. Who was the leader?
(a) William of Normandy
(b) Harold Hardrada
(c) Nogbad the Bad

2 Who was the father of William the Conqueror?
(a) Robert the Magnificent
(b) Ralph the Marvellous
(c) The Comte de Frou-Frou

3 What is the name of the vacuum-cleaner that lives with the Teletubbies?
(a) Noo-Noo
(b) Woo-Woo
(c) Boo-Boo*

4 Boudicca, leader of a revolt against the occupying Romans in AD 60-61, was queen of which British tribe?
(a) Picts
(b) Iceni
(c) Goths

5 Which monument in Rome, still largely intact after almost 2,000 years, is roofed with the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome?
(a) Colosseum
(b) Caesar's Palace
(c) Pantheon

6 Which Disney queen lives in an ice palace on the North Mountain?
(a) Elsa
(b) Snow White
(c) Sleeping Beauty

7 Elsa the lioness was a leading character in which celebrated book and film?
(a) *The Lion King*
(b) *The Jungle Book*
(c) *Born Free*

8 What is the species name of the lion?
(a) *Panthera rex*
(b) *Panthera leo*
(c) *Leo rex*

9 What was the name of the bungling detective, originally played by Peter Sellers, in the *Pink Panther* film series?
(a) Jacques Cousteau
(b) Jacques Clouseau
(c) Jacques Trudeau

10 Jacques Grimaldi, Marquis des Baux, is heir to the throne of which principality?
(a) Monaco
(b) Wales
(c) San Marino

11 Which of these is most closely related to the blue whale?
(a) Salmon
(b) Great white shark
(c) Hippopotamus

12 Bruce, the great white shark who first appeared in *Finding Nemo*, has promised that he won't eat any more...
(a) Humans
(b) Fish
(c) Sweets

13 "Parting is such sweet sorrow," says one of Shakespeare's title characters, "that I shall say good night till it be morrow." Which character is speaking?
(a) Romeo
(b) Juliet
(c) Hamlet

14 Romeo Beckham is the son of David Beckham and the designer and former pop singer Victoria Beckham. Which of the Spice Girls was she?
(a) Scary
(b) Ginger
(c) Posh

15 Which country leads the world in cultivation of the spice ginger, producing almost two million tons a year, twice as much as any rival?
(a) India
(b) China
(c) Madagascar

ANSWERS
1.b; 2.a; 3.a; 4.b; 5.c; 6.a; 7.c; 8.b; 9.b; 10.a; 11.c; 12.b; 13.b; 14.c; 15.a.

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